



*Sister Mary Charles in front of Water, Trees, Rock, 10' x 30', 1966, Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center*

Sister Mary Charles had a personality that attracted people. Neighbors, friends, and strangers alike were always welcome at the Barn. She would invite them up the stairs to see what she was working on. No matter the stage of the current project, she explained what she was doing and solicited feedback, listening carefully and critically to the comments offered. Since her studio was not at St. Scholastica Monastery, she kept her fellow Sisters aware of what she was doing by posting notes on the Community bulletin board asking for prayers for the success of whatever

commission or project she was creating. While Sister Mary Charles did not seek public recognition, she was confident about her ability. As her work gained wider exposure, the increasingly appreciative public made more requests for her art. That work hangs in the homes of family members, friends, neighbors; it also appears in churches, monasteries, health-care facilities, and public buildings. She knew she had something to offer—that as an artist her vocation was to use her talents to create works of public beauty. In her essay above, “The World Will Be Saved by Beauty,” she