To begin your outdoor sculpture tour, park in the Hall of Science parking lot and proceed east past the greenhouse to Ankeny Field. To your left is the first piece on your tour.

1. Styx, 2002, Deborah Butterfield. Butterfield, of Bozeman, Mont., acquired the original driftwood for the horse from the Columbia and Snake rivers. The bronze was cast at the Walla Walla Foundry, owned and operated by Whitman alumnus Mark Anderson ’78.

Next, walk counterclockwise toward the tennis courts.

2. Three Stories, 1997, Squire Broel. Broel, a Walla Walla artist, drew inspiration from Hong Kong’s fish markets. In China, the carp represents prosperity; by scarring its surface, Broel suggests the loss of values in the quest for wealth. The sculpture was cast in bronze at the Walla Walla Foundry.

Retrace your steps toward Styx and continue counterclockwise around Ankeny Field to Jewett Hall’s terrace. There you will see two students playing foosball.

3. Students Playing 4D Tic Tac Toe, 1994, Richard Beyer. Beyer is known throughout the Northwest for his realistic public art. This piece, cast in aluminum, was commissioned by the Class of 1954 and represents both the intellectual and playful aspects of college life.

Proceed along the sidewalk next to Lyman House. On the right you will see a circular sculpture.


Look left over your shoulder. You will see what appears to be a boulder.

5. PE-WA-WA-YIT, commonly referred to as “Treaty Rock,” was a gift in 1965 from the Yakima, Nez Perce, Câyuse, Walla Walla and Umatilla tribes commemorating the signing of treaties with the U.S. government in 1855. (See back of stone for plaque honoring Ho-Lol-Sote-Tote or Small Eagle.)

Continue along College Creek. Look across Boyer Avenue between the La Casa Hispana and Fine Arts interest houses and you will see a rainbow of layered glass and steel. Cross Boyer and explore.

6. Lava Ridge, 1978, Lee Kelly. An noted artist from Oregon City Ore., Kelly draws inspiration from ancient and contemporary sources. This steel sculpture was acquired in 2002 with funds from the Garvin Family Art Fund.

Follow the sidewalk to the left of Maxey. On your left you will see two totem poles.

7. The Benedict Totem was donated by Lloyd Benedict ’41.


Cross College Creek on the 1918 bridge, a gift from the Class of 1908. To your left is the entrance to Whitman Glen, also known as “Narima,” created in 1968 to honor Gwyneth Lewis Condiner ’22, spouse of Ralph J. Condiner ’22.

9. The basalt archway leading into “Narima” is part of the landscaped provided by the Class of 2002 to create a meditation grove in the glen. It was designed by Thomas Berger of Seattle. Whitman’s landscape architect.

Walk in the opposite direction of the archway along College Creek and you will see a tiki.

10. The tiki was a gift to the college.

Continue along College Creek. Look across Boyer Avenue between the La Casa Hispana and Fine Arts interest houses and you will see a rainbow of steel and glass. Cross Boyer and explore.

11. Imagination and Understanding: Phusis and Techeira, 2000, Doug Ludlow ’99. Ludlow’s inspiration for this piece of welded steel and panes of layered glass is the Golden Section, or Divine Proportion, which in nature relates to such forms as the nautilus shell and the sunflower blossom.

12. The stone lantern at the west end of Lakum Duckum was part of a Japanese garden presented to the college by Mr. and Mrs. Tokuzo Yasu of Tokyo in memory of their son Kenji’s graduation from Whitman in 1962.

As you walk along Boyer past Baker Faculty Center, look for the colorful statue Carnival, commonly known on campus as “Venus.”

13. Carnival, 1997, Jim Dine. Dine is an internationally-known artist with roots in Pop Art of the 1960s. He used a chain saw to form this carving from a single tree, then cast it in bronze at the Walla Walla Foundry.

Continue along Boyer. At the sign for Prentiss Hall turn to the right and follow the trail along College Creek. You will come to an installation surrounded by water.

14. Topophilia Gates, 1999, Keiko Hara. Hara, who taught art at Whitman from 1985 to 2006, drew inspiration for this piece from a temple in Mon, Japan, where numerous gates lead up to a mountain. The water flowing through Hara’s gates represents the passage from one realm to another.

Veer left at the sidewalk and walk toward Prentiss Bridge. You will see Angkor IV on your right.

15. Angkor IV, Lee Kelly. Kelly used the temples he visited in Cambodia as inspiration for this piece.

Cross Prentiss Bridge. Between the creek and the Hall of Music you will see Pirouette.

16. Pirouette, one of two pieces acquired in 2004 from Micajah Bienvenue ‘96. Bienvenue, from Friday Harbor, Wash., creates fabricated bronze and stainless steel sculptures assisted by computer technology. The second Bienvenue piece, Triumphant Arc, graces the front of Harper Joy Theatre and is the final piece on the tour.
Outdoor Sculpture Walk at
Whitman College
Walla Walla, Washington

Walk across the College Creek waterfall or along the sidewalk, cross Park Street and proceed to the Reid Campus Center back lawn. In the far corner, behind an evergreen tree, is another Lee Kelly sculpture.

17. Four Columns, 1988, Lee Kelly. Kelly based this steel and enamel sculpture on ancient columns discovered in central Persia. It was acquired in 2002 with funds from the Garvin Family Art Fund.

Walk to the intersection of Park and Boyer, cross and continue past Hunter Conservatory and its decorative fountain, constructed as part of the renovation of the building. Cross Boyer and walk north between Memorial Building and Sherwood Center. You will come to the Fountain of Vibrant Waters.

18. Fountain of Vibrant Waters, 1992, George Tsutakawa. Tsutakawa created more than 60 bronze fountains across the country. This piece was dedicated to Nadine and Robert Skotheim, Whitman’s 10th president. The work is inspired by Japanese pagodas and Tibetan choks, rock mounds made by trekkers in the Himalayas.

Walk east between Penrose Library and Memorial Building. Tucked next to the library, outside the window of Café ’41 on the ground floor of Penrose, is Balancing Act.

19. Balancing Act, Jim Wood. This painted stainless steel sculpture was given to the college in memory of Reine Hillis ’65.

Continue toward the tennis court, and you will see Joined Together, Let No Man Split Asunder.


Return to the Fountain of Vibrant Waters, turn right and proceed to Triumphant Arc in front of Harper Joy Theatre.


You have traveled approximately 1.5 miles.

Cover photo: detail of Pirouette.