

## VIDEO SYNOPSIS: Jim Shrosbree

### Introduction by Lauri Freking

:00 “What is art?”

How does art reach us, and when it does, what does it say? Art has the power to reveal truths and transform the way we think. It can make us see ourselves more clearly and it can pull us deeper into the rich diversity of life. Art can heal individuals and communities. But it's not just the masterpieces housed in places like the Des Moines Art Center that have this power. In this program, we'll introduce you to four Iowa artists.

Will their work have the power to move you?”

### Jim Shrosbree

:48 “Fairfield Sculptor and Maharishi University Professor Jim Shrosbree explores an inner landscape where reality is elusive.”

The video shows an alley in Fairfield Iowa, with Mr. Shrosbree coming toward the camera on a bicycle. Bill Teeple is shown in his art gallery, Icon Gallery, as he describes the unique town of Fairfield, an international place, with people from all over the world, with poets and other literary people, actors, musicians, and artists who were players in the New York and L.A. art scene.

1:57 Mr. Teeple says that Jim Shrosbee is an example of the archetypal Fairfield artist. He is looking for wholeness in art, and wholeness in life. “It exudes from these oddball things that he makes.”

2:08 Mr. Shrosbree pulls up on his bike outside a window. Inside is a flat, dark square with a cut-out rectangle with an oval inside, perhaps made of gold. It is propped up on two bricks.

“What is the meaning of these little things?” The video shows an overhead view of a rectangle of wood painted white, with an elongated oval with pink paint inside, with two objects, one placed at each end of the oval. Other images of his work are shown.

“When you spend some time with Jim's pieces...you get a feeling for what he's doing. You don't have to understand it when you start looking at it. You start to get it if you don't close yourself down and not look at it, and say ‘this is not art’. If you open yourself up and come and just start exploring his forms and the little trip he's taking your awareness on, waiting to get the gift that he's going to give you, you'll get it. And what that gift is, it is the gift of the sacredness of everything.”

3:03 Mr. Shrosbree is working on pieces on a wall, pieces constructed with wire, a see-through fabric, and paint, forming airy shapes. He makes pencil marks on the wall, marks that are integral to what he is creating.

3:35 Mr. Shrosbree works and speaks at the same time, showing a model of a piece he is constructing that will protrude from a gallery wall and have the ability to move a little in the air. He describes a platform that will be cut out to place below the piece and draws on the platform mock-up. The artist is going for an effect or result that is clear in his own mind.

4:34 The artist is shown working on pieces that are hanging in the gallery, finishing them. He discusses effects he is trying to achieve. He uses paint and brushes to finish and images of his work are interspersed with an overhead view of his sketchbook, which clearly shows unusual shapes similar to the sculptures he is creating.

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He discusses a black line he creates merging with the shadow of the sculpture on the wall.

He paints a sculpture that has a brown base, a “level of history.” He paints it yellow, playing with “shadow and reflections” and he “amps up” the shadow it casts on the wall by painting on the wall near the edge of the actual shadow. He holds up a Des Moines Art Center poster featuring a sculpture of his, and explains how the sculpture in the poster casts a shadow on the wall at the show, and how he added paint to the wall at the Art Center.

Jim Shrosbree is shown painting on the wall, over the shadow of another piece then the scene dissolves to an art show opening with a crowd.

- 7:27 The gallery owner and a crowd of people look at the art. The artist looks at the camera and speaks.  
“I know that the work that I see that I like affects me, affects me in an inspirational way. I’m just inspired, thrilled, and sometimes stopped in my tracks. And I hope that there’s some of that happening in the work that I make. I aspire to that.”
- 8:23 End of Jim Shrosbree section

