

SECRET OF THE BEES

Utah

11:15 600

What was the “inspiration” for the design of this effigy?

Utah, named the Beehive State by the Mormon pioneers, is a pretty damn patriarchal place - but The Secret of the Bees reminds us that bees have a Queen, not a king (or even a president). The Bee Goddess doesn't care about your ideology. Her massive, hive-shaped body is big enough to house not only a recursive image of herself (with herself again reiterated within her own belly, a third level down), but also as many burnable bee idols as the Utah community can design and build to be attached to the inside of the structure. Her incredibly large breasts represent the milk-and-honey of the good life, the life that the Mormon pioneers were seeking way out here in arid Deseret. 1400 miles pushing family and belongings in wooden handcarts across the Great Plains and through the Rocky Mountains weeded out the faint of heart, and also those who lacked the spirit to cooperate for survival. In the post-Mormon counterculture, Utahns have kept the community spirit but ditched the patriarchy. The bees have a secret - and it's that the Goddess never went away. She's there as soon as we look for her. She meets our gaze with multifaceted eyes of scintillating rainbows, and when we ask that ultimately human question, what are we supposed to be doing here? She answers, quite clearly, whatever you want, baby!

What impact does the effigy have on the local community?

We have had a tremendously successful volunteer effort this year. This is in part due to the great success of our regional Burn, Element 11. Under the leadership of the newly formed Element 11 Board of Directors, this year saw a huge increase in community involvement, and this has definitely spilled over to the CORE project as well. Interest in all things Burner related is at an all time high in Utah, and we are riding the crest of this wave all the way to Black Rock City!

What interesting story happened during the design and execution of this project?

There have been so many, and everyone who has helped with the project surely has their own personal tale of inspiration to tell - why not stop by The Secret of the Bees and ask us!

What does the effigy hope to convey to the greater community?

We hope to instill a sense of community effort, that the sum is greater than the parts alone, and that amazing things happen when we all support one another and value what each of us has to offer. Our build site is outside, close to a few busy nightclubs. Many build evenings, working away like busy bees, we have been approached by strangers wondering what the heck we are up too! The typical deluge of questions ensue, we answer as best we can, typically there is the bewildered responses, “you mean you are going to burn this? “They will let you do that?” “You are taking it where?” Most walk away quite impressed with our efforts, some have stopped by regularly to check on our progress, a few have even helped us! And so our community grows.

What materials were used in the construction of this effigy?

Her highness the bee Goddess is built mostly from re-purposed and recycled materials. Her main frame is built from plywood and framing lumber, and is sheathed in hardwood strips that were kindly donated by a local cabinet shop. Her faceted eyes are made from recycled plexiglass, and will be lit by multicolored LEDs at night. Two people can sit in her head and have a spectacular view of the playa through her eyes!

CORE Art Walk Activities

We encourage everyone to join us in Bee regalia, especially in conjunction with “Bee Here Now!”

blog.burningman.com/2012/05/participate/bee-here-now

We will have fortified green jello shots (a Utah delicacy!), honey themed drinks and dance “the Secret of the Bees” dance!

We encourage participants to leave offering or mementos to be burnt!

www.facebook.com/groups/145169645610625

