

Greetings, I'm Steven Hardy-Braz-

The whimsical wonder presented in paint before you is of a tandem bicycle built for fifteen riders.

In order for a tandem bicycle to be effective, each cyclist has to communicate, cooperate, and coordinate their pedal strokes with every other rider.

As a cycling advocate and avid cyclist who started the NC annual statewide bicycle summit, and also who has ridden across the country, I enjoy immensely the meditation and solitude of solo rides as well as the social sharing aspects of group rides.

When riders collaborate as a team, the laws of physics make the ride easier for each individual like schools of fish swimming or flocks of birds flying together for protection and efficacy.

Regardless of the number of cyclists involved, each ride is an opportunity to exercise a sense of freedom, accomplishment, achieve physical exercise, and have a deep reconnection to the natural world that surrounds us and perceived through all of our senses.

This painting was designed and completed by ECU graduate students for a public art project in collaboration with the building's owners as a way to warmly welcome nearly two thousand cyclists to Farmville as part of Cycle North Carolina's annual cross state cycle tour.

It remains as a mechanical metaphor for society.

The mural simultaneously states and inquires that "All are riding together!" and "Are all riding together?" by use of a simple interrobang.

The answer to how we are riding is to be answered by each individual viewer.

Like the the individual colors of the spectrum can be teased apart and separated into their own beautiful shade, it is only when they come together do they form a bright, colorful, and beautiful rainbow that provides a symbol of unified diversity and hope for a brighter future.

I hope you enjoy.