



'Yarn bombing' shrouds Pierce College's Brahma Bull in warm, fuzzy stitching

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Christy Chambers works on covering the bull sculpture with knitted and crocheted material at Los Angeles Pierce College on Nov. 5, 2011. (John McCoy/Daily News Staff Photographer) (John McCoy)

The rusty steel bull that dominates the hub of the Pierce College campus didn't look so intimidating Saturday, after it was bombed by a colorful riot of yarn.

The nearly 9-foot-tall, 15-foot-wide, five-ton Brahma Bull statue was covered from head to hoof in bright pink, orange, yellow, blue and green yarn along with some repurposed afghans as part of the whimsical art movement known as "yarn bombing," in which guerrilla artists outfit inanimate objects with warm and fuzzy cozies.

The bull's new sweater is part of the "Domestic Vandal" exhibit opening at the campus Art

Gallery on Thursday. The show will offer a look at the technical side of yarn bombing - how fiber artists go about creating large installations - and display

pieces from Christy and Brian Chambers, a husband-wife team of knitters turned street artists.

"We fell in love with the idea of graffiti knitting because of the absurdity," said Christy Chambers, an art teacher and art fabricator. "No one can walk by and not giggle because you just knitted a giant sweater for a tree or a pole."

The grand staircase and 14 trees leading from the bull to the upper campus, where the art quad is, also got wrapped in patterned creations as volunteers lent their needles and latch hooks to stitch together the two halves of the campus.

Hoping that the visually appealing cozies would create a colorful pathway and lead people up to the upper campus and art complex - which most tend to overlook - the director of the art gallery called the movement "fabulous" for fusing a domestic craft and graffiti and redefining the latter in the process.

"We're appropriating something that has been considered a nuisance and a blight to our



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community and then taking something that's has been relegated to the domestic and women, and then turning it on its ear," said curator Monika Del Bosque.

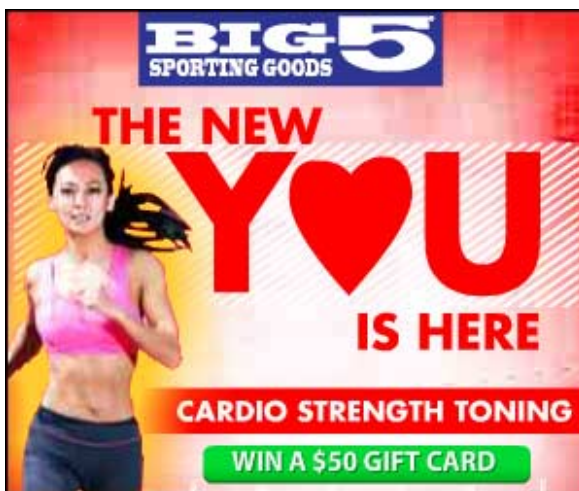
The installation continues today, and part of the exhibit will document the intensive process - for example, the bull's 72-inch tail took about a week to knit a cover for.

Knitters, who were using various techniques including crocheting, applique and stenciling, had more than 300 balls of yarn on standby.

"It's wonderful because it appeals on different levels," said Catelyn Dorroh, a member of Los Angeles Yarn Collective, a yarn bombing group. "A person with a doctor's degree in art history or art criticism can see one thing. But then a child can see the fabric and automatically know that there's a sensory experience."

The sweaters were expected to stay on until the new year, and bring some cheer through the holidays.

"I think that the world is a very serious place right now," Christy Chambers said. "I think that art that makes us laugh and take a moment and think, 'Why on earth would someone do that?' is so important."



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