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Monday, April 21, 2008

Art is where you find it: Pt. 4: Harrison library



I intended to visit Manifest and the Carnegie Saturday since I couldn't attend their Friday openings and hadn't had a chance to preview the shows. But before doing that, I opted for Findlay Market and then to the public library branch in Harrison. The library had sent me intriguing close-ups of a piece called "The Natural Mandala" and I wanted to see the entire thing. It being Earth Week and all. So, off I went.



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As you can tell from the details above, the mandala is a fascinating and intricate piece made with leaves, seeds, pods, bark, moss and much more that artist Rex Oxley has almost turned into a minimustry. He's offering giclee prints, note cards, a color-by-hand poster, and a book about the making and meaning of it. His entrepreneurial zeal is admirable. After that, I decided to head into Harrison's historic downtown just to see what was happening there. Like many small downtowns, it's struggling - especially since places like the library, supermarkets and big box stores have built east of downtown, creating the inevitable sprawl. There wasn't much to see. I didn't take the GPS with me - a gift from the Reluctant Gallerist - because I like getting lost.