

Murals

America, this is a perfect way to get the community involved."

Reece and Gregor clicked, forming a fast friendship, and quickly, the plan for the Marion Makeover Street Jam quickly fell into place.

"These are large scale

murals done with spray paint," Arnett said. "These are not the people that you see that are writing their name on the side of a train car – these are artists.

Sometimes they do things by scale, sometimes they project the image and do the outline and they fill it in.

It's just amazing to see one of these put together – a 10-foot tall by 40-foot or however big the building is. It's just amazing what they can do with the spray paint."

Along with Gregor, 20 other artists were in Marion over the weekend working at several locations around

the downtown area, including Creech's Country Café & Bakery, Family & Social Services, Sender Café, Mac123, TCS, and Bahr Bros.

"We just want to transform Marion," Reece said. "I think Marion needs positivity. There's been so much

negativity, and we've taken our knocks as a city. We wanted through a private effort, not through a lot of grants and public effort, to come in here and make a massive and very colorful impact on the city."

Artists came from far and wide, including Seto, who

lives in Tennessee, close to the Georgia border. His love of art took hold at a young age, and it's been his passion throughout most of his life.

"I have always loved art," Seto said. "My aunt is a graphic artist. I always saw it around as a kid but I was always sucked into GI Joe and Transformers and comic books. But once I started skating, I would see graffiti out more, and it just snapped. I was so intrigued by it. It all kind of evolved from that."

When Gregor, who goes by the artist name of Spade I, Seto knew he could not pass up the opportunity. He believes that these projects will not only continue to beautify downtown Marion, but it will also connect people from various walks of life.

"It makes everyone curious," Seto said. "It's just really intriguing, and I think it brings people out, which is great in these times. It brings the community together."

Reece's hopes for this project are two-fold. One, he wants to drive continued economic growth in Downtown Marion, and two, he wants the art to inspire people, and most importantly, future generations.

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