University of Nebraska–Lincoln

Institutional Self-study for the
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Cover photo–
Constructed of painted stainless steel, steel, and aluminum, Torn Notebook is a signature large-scale sculpture on the University Nebraska–Lincoln campus. Renowned sculptors Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen conceived and built the three-piece artwork, now a landmark at the corner of 12th and Q streets, from 1993 to 1996. The handwritten words on the torn pages, which stretch more than 20 feet high, reflect the artists’ impressions of Lincoln. Its spiral binding might reference a spinning tornado; fluttering pages suggest birds carried on Plains winds.

Cover photo by Tom Slocum/UNL Publications & Photography