Public Art Selected to Commemorate Sesquicentennial

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Hands of Time by Kelowna-based artist Crystal Przybille (pronounced she-BILL) is the winning submission to the City of Victoria’s national, juried public art competition to create artwork that celebrates and acknowledges Victoria’s 150th anniversary of incorporation. Hands of Time is a series of 12 bronze sculptures depicting life-size hands engaged in activities representative of Victoria’s past, installed at various downtown locations.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: Crystal Przybille and Chair of the Art in Public Places Committee Jon Tupper will be available for interviews today from 11 a.m. to noon at the Victoria City Hall Antechamber. The Hands of Time maquette will be on display during this timeframe.

Each pair of three-dimensional hands will be unique, varying in culture, age and gender, and will tell a story about a downtown location. Ranging in size from 25 x 17 x 7 to 60 x 40 x 20 centimetres, the 12 sculptures will consist of hands carving a cedar canoe paddle; digging camas bulbs; tying a rope to a mooring ring; carrying point blankets; panning for gold; holding a railway spike, performing with a Chinese fan; cupping Dogwood blossoms; carrying books; raising a tea cup; holding binoculars; and holding a mirror. Twelve sculptures is representative of the twelve numbers on the clock face, twelve months in a year, and Victoria’s sesquicentennial in 2012.

“Having the opportunity to actualize my concept for Victoria’s sesquicentennial artwork is deeply gratifying,” said Crystal Przybille. “The artwork will be simultaneously classical and progressive, designed to engage the public’s imagination, while it expresses and nurtures Victoria's identity.”

The artist has proposed specific sites for each sculpture, however, final site selections will be determined during production in collaboration with City staff. Installation is scheduled for the fall.

Przybille was one of more than 80 artists from across Canada who responded to the “Call to Artists”. Sixteen semi-finalists were selected, from which four artists were invited to submit a maquette and a detailed proposal. Submissions were assessed on their artistic merit, expression of theme, feasibility, the use of public space, and sustainability. The three-stage, national public art competition followed the City of Victoria’s Art in Public Places Policy. The budget for the artworks is $100,000 and is funded by the Art in Public Places Reserve Fund.

For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca

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