

November 30, 2011



The City of Vancouver Public Art Program and Engineering Services are pleased to announce the completion of a new public artwork at Knight Street and 33rd:

***Abundance Fenced* (2011) by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas**

Along the top of a concrete retaining wall beside Kensington Park is an artwork that reflects on the dynamic relationship between nature and culture that sustains, surprises and give us pleasure. A 43-metre long steel sculpture on Knight Street at 33rd Avenue acts as a railing beside the pedestrian path and is a playful adaptation of contemporary Haida design on a bracelet large enough for a city to wear. The artwork is located on the height of land marking the Burrard Inlet and Fraser River watersheds, alongside the major thoroughfare joining the City to these bodies of water.

Stylized Orcas pursue salmon cascading down the slope towards the North Shore mountain peaks that native legend calls the Two Sisters. The salmon are locked (literally welded) together with the Orcas in a timeless pursuit. The vitality of this system of interdependence is essential to all of us.

"The work is inspired by the exceptionally abundant 2010 Fraser River salmon return, a marked contrast to the ominous trend in declining wild salmon stocks. Certainly this exceptional run merits a marker to celebrate the resilience of this robust species." – artist's statement

Two sets of whales face in opposite directions. Where their tail flukes meet in the centre of the work, two faces rise up to define a metaphorical passageway. These Stupa-like forms offer a reflection on balance, choice and action. These are themes much explored by artist Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas. The work is created in the Haida Manga style developed by the artist, a fusion of Northwest Coast First Nations design elements and Japanese graphic animation.

Artist Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas has published award-winning graphic books, most recently, Red (Douglas and McIntyre, 2009). His works of art in a variety of media are in museums, galleries, and private collections internationally.

Technical Design and Fabrication of the artwork by RED Design; Engineering by Bogdonov Pao; Lighting Design by RFT Engineering.

Abundance Fenced is commissioned by the City of Vancouver Public Art Program in partnership with Engineering Services as part of the Clark-Knight Corridor Public Art Plan. Details about the plan and about Vancouver's Public Art Program can be found at Vancouver.ca/publicart. The program commissions large-scale permanent installations as well as design-team collaborations and temporary public art projects within the city of Vancouver.

A reception to celebrate the work will be held at the Kensington Community Centre Hall on December 3 at 10 a.m. in the Seniors' Lounge. Press may arrange for photos with the artist prior to the reception.

For information or images, please contact:

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