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For Immediate Release

Carving out a Legacy along Highway 27 Sculpture Pathway

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Public art is essential to the healthy growth of a community. It creates a vibrant sense of place and contributes to a community's reputation and identity for both residents and visitors. Art provides people with the opportunity for the exchange of ideas and expression.

We have a strong arts community in our region, (*from Statistics Canada's 2001 census*), Olds was noted as one of the Prairie province's rural municipalities with high concentrations of artists comprising 1.4% of the local labour force, nearly double the national average.

Exhibiting Bergen Rocks in Olds is a concept the Town has been developing over a number of years refining it to fit within our plans for growth and development. The Bergen Rocks originated from International sculpture symposiums held throughout the summers of 2008 to 2010. Professional sculptors from around the world came to stay and create sculpture at Morton Burke's farm near Bergen, Alberta.

The intention of exhibiting Bergen Rocks sculptures in Olds is to extend the vibrant art culture of the Olds community in a high profile area for local residents and visitors to enjoy. The Highway 27 Sculpture Pathway will draw attention to Olds, promoting a reason to come off QEII to view the display and experience the unique works of art.

Town Staff worked with the curator of Bergen Rocks on what pieces would be available to us while maintaining an exhibit at the Bergen site. Two sculptures on temporary exhibition have arrived and are in place on display along the Hwy. 27 Sculpture pathway. A total of ten sculptures will be on display, with the remainder set to arrive in the coming months.

Three sculptures have been purchased by the Town through the Destination Olds Collective Fund, created to focus on tourism related initiatives. The cost of the three sculptures is \$40,000 with an additional delivery/installation cost of \$3,000-\$5,000.

The 2018 budget approved \$55,000 to create an area along Highway 27 to show case art. Of that amount \$11,000 was secured to exhibit pieces from the Bergen Rocks collection and \$44,000 was invested into the permanent infrastructure to display the sculptures and future exhibitions of art along the Highway 27 Sculpture Pathway.



“Desire to Be”, by Gerard Motondi of Kenya, represents an aspiration to change from one’s present status. All humans of whatever status have a desire to be. Thus successful people from the top look down to the common man’s life and desire the simplicity in it while the simple or common man looks up and desires a life filled with material ownership and fame. This is a driving factor in our daily lives, we are never content with what we have or what we are, hence making our daily lives a struggle to achieve our desires.

Gerard holds a Doctrate degree in Fine Art from Kenyatta University in Kenya where he is a professor of art. He has participated in many international arts events and, notably, was the gold medal winner in the 2008 Beijing Sculpture Olympics. His sculptures can be seen in sculpture parks around the world.

For more information:

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“Maintain” by Nguyen Tan Cuong of Vietnam, depicts that there are many problems in the world that man has created such as wars, drugs, pollution, and discrimination. Now the world is a smaller place and we interact more than ever, we aren’t doing the best job of that. If everyone made a small change, the world could be a better place. It doesn’t need a big change, only a small one like the pearl of wisdom in the palm of the hand.

Cuong’s works appears all around the world, including the University of Brighton & Sallis City Exhibition House, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Galerie deBallens, Switzerland, Oakland, California, USA, just to name a few.

Photograph	Description
	<p>“Canuck” – Marble Tony Deguglielmo, Canada</p> <p>Canuck is a beautifully stylized portrait of an Iroquois man. The style transitions from organic on the left (the face) to cubic on the right (the head dress). In addition to being a beautiful form this transition speaks to the transition of life in Canada since the Europeans came to Canada. Transforming the way of life from living harmoniously with nature to the way we live now with a grid work of roadways and predominately cubic building styles.</p>
	<p>“Desire to Be” – Marble Gerard Motondi, Kenya</p> <p>“Desire to Be” represents an aspiration to change from one’s present status. All humans of whatever status have a desire to be. Thus successful people from the top look down to the common man’s life and desire the simplicity in it while the simple or common man looks up and desires a life filled with material ownership and fame. This is a driving factor in our daily lives, we are never content with what we have or what we are, hence making our daily lives a struggle to achieve our desires.</p>



Maintain” – Marble
Nguyen Tan Cuong,
Vietnam

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“Prelude” – Marble
Carlos Valazquez Darias,
Cuba
In a predominately cubic style this sculpture depicts a couple sharing a kiss.



“Rising Sun” – Marble

Peerapong Doungkaew,
Thailand

“Rising Sun” is Peerapong’s second sculpture in the park and was inspired by his time here at the first Bergen Rocks event. When he woke in the morning and came out to exercise on the lawn he would see the sun rising over the tree tops to the east between the two trees where this sculpture is placed. In his submission for the third Bergen Rocks he actually specified that if he was chosen to participate again this sculpture should be placed here. Cool that he would choose the location based on his memory of watching the sun rise each morning.



“Spring” – Marble

Gang Chu, China

Chu did not intend for “Spring” to make statement or have an interpretations. It is simply an interesting form depicting something we are all familiar with. A jazz musician playing his instrument.



“Spring” – Marble
Pham Minh Chien, Vietnam

This sculpture is the first in a series of 4, Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter. It depicts a flower in the spring that is ready to bloom and reproduce. It can also be viewed as the lower torso of a young lady, like the flower, ready to bloom and fruitful. This feature of the sculpture is referred to as “dual representational”.



“Yin and Yang” – Granite
Tran Viet Hung, Vietnam

The stylized figure balanced on the top of the column represents a family. The largest form is the man, recessed in the man is a woman with hair flowing down her back. The negative space represents a baby. Hung’s statement about this sculpture “Family is a good balance for your life.”