



4512 46 Street
Olds AB T4H 1R5
Main: 403.556.6981
Fax: 403.556.6537

For Immediate Release

Highway 27 Sculpture Pathway Reaches Completion

May 13, 2019, Olds, Alberta – News release

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. Nine sculptures 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 last one currently under being carved.

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.

Copies of the interpretive panels describing the sculptures are attached to this email.

For more information:

Doug Wagstaff, Director of Community Services
403.507.4848
dwagstaff@olds.ca

Bergen Rocks Story

Creator: Morton Burke, Sculptor/Event Coordinator

After participating in sculpture symposia in other countries, Bergen artist Morton Burke felt that the events were something we should be hosting here in Alberta. Over a 5 year period he was unable to convince a community to take up his idea so he decided to go ahead and do it himself at his acreage in Bergen. He was quite sure that although the pomp and ceremony that is normal at these events in other countries would be absent, the grassroots nature of his concept would be interesting enough to attract sculptors from around the world. The first year 19 of the 20 friends said they would love to create sculptures at his acreage so he drew 5 names from a hat. In its fourth year 178 proposals for participation were received! The participants stay together in his home during the month long event and work each day except Tuesdays when they take a trip to see some Alberta sights.

The Olds Highway 27 Sculpture Pathway is comprised of some of the sculptures that have been created at Bergen Rocks. Visit the Bergen Sculpture Park to see the others.

To get to the Bergen Sculpture Park, from A&W in Sundre turn right and go 6.4km to Pioneer Lodge Road (township road 32) turn right and go 1.6km to range road 5.4 Turn left and go ½ km to the second driveway on the right.



Bergen
Rocks

Town of
OLDS

Title: Ancient Cultures

Medium: Sandstone

Artist: Paul Patrick Haggins, Ireland

Description: Paul wanted to create a sculpture that would pay homage to the ancient cultures of both Ireland and Canada. The Celtic cross is the reference to Ireland and the feather on the shaft speaks to the ancient cultures of Canada. On one corner near the bottom are several horizontal marks. These are letters that spell Canada in an extinct language called ogham that was used in ancient Ireland.

The negative spaces in a Celtic cross are called lights. If a cross has lights it must be placed so that the faces of the cross point east and west. With this orientation the sun will shine through the lights to start the day and shine through the lights once more in the evening to end the day. This tradition is not widely known in Canada, many crosses can be seen that face the wrong direction.

Paul got his start into sculpture when he took a job restoring castles. He has been working stone for over 35 years and has travelled to many countries around the world carving. The time spent learning in different places has made him appreciate the art of ancient cultures.



Bergen
Rocks

Town of
OLDS

Title: Canuck

Medium: Marble

Artist: Tony Deguglielmo, Canada

Description: 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.



Bergen
Rocks

Town of
OLDS

Title: Desire to Be

Medium: Marble with Sandstone Base

Artist: Gerard Motondi, Kenya

Description: "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.

Gerard holds a Doctorate 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.

He was pleased to participate in Bergen Rocks 2009 as it gave him the opportunity to reconnect with several artists that he has worked with in other symposia. The major impetus for sculptors to participate in these events is to have the opportunity to create art in foreign countries, to share techniques and inspirations with other artists and to allow the public to become familiar with the tendencies of modern sculpture.



Bergen
Rocks

Town of
OLDS

Title: Maintain

Medium: Marble

Artist: Nguyen Tan Cuong, Vietnam

Description: 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.



Bergen
Rocks

Town of
OLDS

Title: Prelude

Medium: Marble

Artist: Carlos Valazquez Darias, Cuba

Description: In a predominately cubic style this sculpture depicts a couple sharing a kiss.



Bergen
Rocks

Town of
OLDS

Title: Rising Sun

Medium: Marble

Artist: Peerapong Doungkaew, Thailand

Description: Peerapong participated in Bergen Rocks two times, "Rising Sun" is the sculpture he created on his second visit. This sculpture was inspired by his first visit in 2008, each morning when he woke up he saw the sun rising from his bedroom window. It is made from one of the most beautiful stones to be used at Bergen Rocks. The design of this sculpture can be appreciated by walking slowly around it while looking at it, with every step the sculpture will change/evolve. It truly has 100 personalities.

Peerapong has a Master of Fine Art Degree - M.F.A. Silpakorn University, Bangkok. Now retired, he was professor of sculpture at Chiang Mai University, Thailand, for many years, he is also an accomplished painter and print maker. Peerapong has been exhibiting his art and participating in sculpture events around the world since 1986.



Bergen
Rocks

Town of
OLDS

Title: Spring

Medium: Marble

Artist: Gang Chu, China

Description: Jiang did not intend "Spring" to convey a message or to make a statement. It is simply a pleasing form that exhibits the artist's skill in design and carving. It is difficult not to imagine a piece of jazz music when viewing this sculpture.



Bergen
Rocks

Town of
OLDS

Title: Spring

Medium: Marble

Artist: Chien Minh Pham, Vietnam

Description: Spring is a dual representational sculpture. The form could represent a flower in the spring, ready to bloom and be beautiful. In the center at the top you can see a small half circle making the representation of the lower torso of a young lady wearing a sarong easy to recognize. The sculpture is saying that a young lady is like a flower in the spring, ready to bloom and be beautiful.

Several of the artists' statements/interpretations mention that the sculpture is talking about or saying something. This is common as the artists often wish to convey something beyond the beauty of the form. In following with that, sculptors will often be referred to as "authors" of their work.

Chien holds a bachelors degree in fine art, specializing in sculpture, from the Fine Art University of Ho Chi Minh City. Chien lives in Ho Chi Minh City and sometimes teaches sculpture at his alma mater. He has participated in many symposia including An Giang Impressions at Chao Doc, Vietnam where he became friends with Morton who was representing Canada. At that time this event was the largest symposium ever held.



Bergen
Rocks

Town of
OLDS

Title: Yin and Yang

Medium: Granite

Artist: Hung Tran Viet, Vietnam

Description: Yin and Yang is a Chinese term that roughly translates to balance or harmony. At the top of Hung's sculpture a form is placed horizontally that represents a family. The overall form is a man, the recessed area is a woman with hair flowing down her back and the negative space is the baby. With the form balanced on the end of the column this sculpture is demonstrating that family is a good balance for your life.

Hung is a well known sculptor in Vietnam, he earned his Bachelor of Fine Art Degree at Ho Chi Minh City Fine Art University. Several of his sculptures have been placed in public. Morton and Hung have participated together in several events and each of them have had monumental sculptures placed in the permanent collection of Hassla Open Air Museum in South Korea.

Yin and Yang is the only sculpture created at Bergen Rocks using granite. His material was salvaged from a building in Vancouver that was being demolished. Granite is extremely hard compared to marble, completing this sculpture in only 1 month is a considerable feat.



Bergen
Rocks

Town of
OLDS