



National Gallery
of Canada

Musée des beaux-arts
du Canada

15 June, 2011

Mr. Ermis Durofil
Program Manager, Right-of-Way Permits & Applications
Department of Public Works and Services, Traffic and Parking Operations
City of Ottawa
100 Constellation Crescent, 6th Floor
Nepean ON K2G 6J8
Canada

Object: National Gallery of Canada – Proposal to install *The Three Watchmen* by Jim Hart on City of Ottawa land.

Dear Mr. Durofil,

We are pleased to submit to the City of Ottawa a proposal to install a sculpture by Jim Hart (b. 1952, in Masset, British Columbia),

The Three Watchmen / les trois gardiens 2003, cast 2010
Bronze
14 ft x 3 ft
Edition/casting 3 of 3
Permanent Collection of the National Gallery of Canada

We will be available to present the project at the July Transportation Committee meeting.

As requested please find below some information about the artist, his work and its integration in the selected site.

Chief James (Jim) Hart is one of the Northwest Coast's most accomplished artists. He comes from a long line of Haida chiefs who were carvers, the most noted being his great-great-grandfather, Charles Edenshaw, whose name and hereditary title Jim now holds as a chief of the Eagle Clan. In August 1999, at the Memorial Chieftainship Potlatch at Old

T 613.990.1985 F 613.993.4385 TTD/ATME 613.990.0777

Canada

380 Sussex Drive, P.O. Box 427, Station A
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9N4
<http://national.gallery.ca>

380, promenade Sussex, C.P. 427, succursale A
Ottawa (Ontario) K1N 9N4
<http://musee.beaux-arts.ca>



Masset, Haida Gwaii, Jim raised a 17 metre (55 foot) totem pole that he and his assistants carved in honour of his family. At this time, Jim received his name as Haida hereditary chief, 7idansuu (pronounced "ee-dan-soo"). This name was once held by Charles Edenshaw (ca.1839-1924), the master carver from whom Jim is descended.

Jim Hart has been a carver since 1979, first apprenticing with Robert Davidson and later working for Bill Reid from 1980 to 1984. He assisted with masterworks such as Reid's *The Raven* and the *First Men* at UBC MOA and *The Lord of the Undersea* at the Vancouver Aquarium. Since then Hart has carved numerous monumental Haida totems that stand in various locations around the world, including the Olympic Museum in Lausanne Switzerland, the Autry National Center in Los Angeles, the Indigenous United Peoples Festival in Pau, France, and the Old King's Royal Family Summer Castle Grounds in Helsingborg, Sweden. As much as he is in demand in these far off places he also maintains a practice devoted to his community and has carved and raised poles and built several Haida longhouses in Old Massett, Skidegate, and the abandoned community Yan in Haida Gwaii.

He has been the recipient of several awards and honours including the Order of British Columbia in 2003. In addition to his mastery of the scale of monumental sculptures and poles, Hart is also an accomplished jeweler and printer and his works can be found in collections throughout the world.

Jim Hart is a pioneer among Haida artists in the use of bronze, Hart's *The Three Watchmen* is an example of his mastery of this medium and is produced by Tallix Foundry near Beacon, New York.

In concert with the artist, the National Gallery of Canada is proposing to install the sculpture at an outdoor location in close proximity to the Gallery. The proposed site is along the south side of the Gallery on the traffic island that divides the flow of traffic heading west on St. Patrick and east from the Alexandra Bridge (see attached site plan). Importantly, this location is particularly appropriate for *The Three Watchmen* sculpture as it relates to the traditional function of such a pole in a Haida context, "...Watchmen figures looked out for danger emanating from both the supernatural and the every day world, and were often incorporated by the Haida on the tall cedar totem poles in front of their houses in villages throughout Haida Gwaii - Queen Charlotte Islands."

The watchmen are configured back to back and each figure takes in one-third of the full 360 degree panoramic view from the sculpture. Their gaze captures the Gallery, the American Embassy, the Canadian Parliament buildings, and back to the Gallery once again. The artist was pleased with the idea of installing the work in this location. As Jim Hart is a hereditary chief and an artist, the thought of having this work installed outside



the National Gallery of Canada and in close proximity to centers of both the Canadian and American governments is particularly appealing considering the legacy of the Edenshaw title he holds and the bi-national character of the territories of the Haida Peoples—as they exist in both Canada and Alaska.

Sincerely,

Karen Colby-Stothart
Deputy Director, Exhibitions and Installations
National Gallery of Canada

cc. Ms Nicole Zuger, Arts and Heritage, Ms. Karen Nesbitt, Public Art Program. City of Ottawa

Encl.