

April 3, 2017

To: Tacoma Arts Commission

From: Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator

Re: Shipment to China by Hai Ying Wu

In 1994, artist Hai Ying Wu approached the City of Tacoma and the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation about donating a memorial work of art in support of the project. In 1996, he completed the sculpture titled "Shipment to China" with the intention of installing it at the Chinese Reconciliation Park. The sculpture, created as a graduate thesis, was not designed for secure outdoor use and was therefore placed in storage for safekeeping. Although in storage on City property for close to 20 years, ownership of "Shipment to China" was never crystal clear, however we know that the work was never formally assessed into the Municipal Art Collection.

In April, 2015, the City and the Foundation were approached with the opportunity to exhibit the sculpture as part of a railroad exhibit at the Foss Waterway Seaport. It was a wonderful opportunity to get the piece out of storage and clean it up for exhibition. The Arts Commission authorized staff to restore the artwork, and invested approximately \$6,000 in preparing the work for display.

In 2016, the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation approached the City about including an artwork along the Prairie Line Trail that honors the contributions of the Chinese Railroad workers. Realizing, with proper reinforcement for outdoor installation, that "Shipment to China" could be successfully sited along the trail, the City included the piece as part of the Washington State 2015-17 Heritage Capital Projects Fund grant for the Prairie Line Trail Historic Interpretation Project. Funding from the grant will enable the piece to be secured and retrofitted for outdoor installation. The piece will be sited on the actual railroad tracks and will be prominently displayed.

While ownership of the artwork over the years has been murky, the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation would like to give the piece to the City so the City can formally access the artwork into the Municipal Art Collection.

Staff recommends accession based on the reputation of the artist, the fact that it has been in the City's care for 20+ years, and the important story it tells. Clear ownership will allow us to move forward with retro-fitting the artwork for public display and including it in the Prairie Line Trail Historic Interpretation Project.



HAIYING WU
Sculptor, Public artist

EDUCATION

University of Washington, M.F.A Sculpture and Public Art, 1996.
Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts, P. R. China, B.F.A Sculpture, 1986.

PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

Completed Projects:

“Circle of life” Public art series for Sichuan Art and Cultural College. Include two major sculpture installation, one set of eight 5 meter tall light pole. Chengdu, P. R. China 2014

“Harvest” 20 feet tall major sculpture installation for the public square of the city of Huidong. P. R. China 2014

“Call of Duty” Life-size Aluminum cast figure for Olympia Fire Station. 2013

“Police memorial” University of Central Florida 2012

“Public Safety Memorial” 15’ tall bronze sculpture. Commissioned by Glendale Arts Commission, Glendale, Arizona. 2010

“Sublimation in Fire” Stainless steel wall relief for Albuquerque Fire Station 15. Commissioned by Albuquerque Arts Commission, Albuquerque New Mexico. 2010

“Harmonies Family” 5’ tall bronze sculpture installation for the city of Chengdu Chenghua District. Chengdu, P.R. China 2010

“Salmon Gate”: Stainless-steel sculpture. Carson Elementary School front entrance. Commissioned by Washington State Arts Commission, Puyallup, Washington, 2008.

“Nine Tigers”: Large-scale granite sculpture. Commissioned by Liang Shan State Government, Liangshan, P. R. China, 2007.

“Moon Lake series” : Three functional-lighting sculptures. Commissioned by Xichang Arts Committee, Xichang, P. R. China, 2007.

“Team Work”: Life-size figurative bronze sculpture of firefighters & police officers. Glendale Public Safety Building front entrance. Commissioned by Glendale Arts Commission, Glendale, Arizona, 2006.

“Man, Nature Series”: Cut-off aluminum-panel wall relief. Commissioned by Sichuan Publishing House, Chengdu, Sichuan, P. R. China, 2006.

“First Pitch ”: Stainless-steel sculpture. Redmond Sport Facility. Commissioned by Redmond Arts Commission, Redmond, Washington, 2005.

“Hawk”: Bronze & stainless-steel sculpture. Hockinson High School front entrance. Commissioned by Washington State Arts Commission, Washington, 2005.

“Hide & Seek”: Interactive figurative bronze statue. Everett Children’s Museum front entrance. Commissioned by Everett Children’s Museum, Everett, Washington, 2004.

“Migration”: Bend Roundabout stainless-steel sculpture. Commissioned by Bend Art in Public Place Inc, Bend, Oregon, 2004.

“Veterans Memorial”: Bronze monumental-scale memorial commemorating U.S. soldiers killed in battle. Northglenn City Hall Plaza. Commissioned by Northglenn Arts Commission, Northglenn, Colorado, 2004.

“Frog Story”: Bronze sculpture. Thoreau Elementary School lobby. Commissioned by Lake Washington School District, Kirkland, Washington, 2003.

“Garden of Meditation”: Epoxy terrazzo game bench. Western State Hospital courtyard. Commissioned by Washington State Arts Commission, Tacoma, Washington, 2002.

“Immerging”: Bronze & stainless-steel sculpture. Renton Community Center. Commissioned by Renton Arts Commission, Renton, Washington, 2002.

“Union Memorial”: Memorial commemorating auto-light workers’ strike in 1934 in the city of Toledo. Memorial consist two bronze figures, one granite gateway and a section of one hundred feet long brick wall. Commissioned by Arts Commission of Grater Toledo, Toledo, Ohio, 2001.

“Game Bench”: Four Epoxy terrazzo game benches. Seattle International District Hing Hay Park. Commissioned by International District Community Development Association, Seattle, Washington, 1999.

“Rescue” Mercer Island Fire Station”: Outdoor site-specific sculpture and memorial bench. Commissioned by Mercer Island Arts Commission, Mercer Island, Washington, 1999.

Site-specific aluminum cut-off wall relief and bench. Everett Animal Shelter. Commissioned by Everett Arts Commission, Everett, Washington, 1999.

“The Melody of Water”: Epoxy terrazzo benches. Renton City Hall court yard. Commissioned by Renton Arts Commission, Renton, Washington, 1999.

“Hol.Mabley”: Hol.Mabley memorial statue, Mukilteo Library. Commissioned by Mukilteo Library, Everett, Washington, 1999.

“Seattle Fallen Firefighter’s Memorial”: Life-size bronze statue and granite slab commemorating Seattle Fire Department firefighters who have lost their lives. Commissioned by Seattle Fallen Firefighter’s Memorial Committee, Seattle, Washington, 1998.

“Origin”: Outdoor site-specific sculpture. Chinatown International District Village Square. Commissioned by Seattle Chinatown-International District Preservation and Development Authority, Seattle, Washington, 1998.

“Cycle of Life”: Powder-coated aluminum site-specific sculpture. Moses Lake High School front entrance. Commissioned by Washington State Arts Commission, Moses Lake, Washington, 1997.

“Unity”: Site-specific sculpture. Renton Fire Station & training facility. Commissioned by Renton Arts Commission, Renton, Washington, 1997.

“Untitled”: Site-specific outdoor wall-relief sculpture. Redmond Fire Station. Commissioned by Redmond Arts Commission, Redmond, Washington, 1996.

“Crane & Turtle”: Outdoor site-specific sculpture. Seattle Health Center court yard. Commissioned by King County Arts Commission, Seattle, Washington, 1993.

“Dance”: Outdoor site-specific sculpture. Lynnwood Recreation Center. Commissioned by Lynnwood Arts Commission, Lynnwood, Washington, 1992.

PUBLICATIONS

Tian Fu Morning Post. Sichuan, P. R. China. “Memorial Statue Heading to American” by Lan Jun, Wu Wei. May 23, 2002.

Tian Fu Morning Post. Sichuan, P. R. China. “American Soldiers Made in Chengdu” by Wu Wei, Zuo Chuan Lan. June 20, 2002.

The University of Toledo Alumni Magazine. “If You Seek A Monument” by Cynthia Nowak, Spring Issue, 2001.

Toledo Blade, “Bronze Sculpture Pays Tribute to 1934 Automobile-Workers Strike, by David Berens. 2001.

Everett Herald, “Pieces for Paws” Completion of animal shelter art project. By Kate Reardon, pg. 1A&14A. July 7, 2000.

American Fire Journal, “Seattle’ Fallen Firefighters Memorial’ by John. Ryczkowski, June 1999.

The Seattle Times, “New Memorial a Tribute to Fallen Firefighters” by Charles E. Brown, June 4th, 1998.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, “Fallen Firefighters Remembered” by Gilbert W.Arias, June 5, 1998.

The Seattle Time, "A Memorial in Progress" by Benjamin Benschneider, Nov 18, 1997

The Seattle Time, "Memorial to Fallen Firefighters Slowly Taking on Life in Studio" by Dee Norton, May 3, 1997.

The Daily of the University of Washington, "Warning: One Hot Creation" by Mac Monsanto, Jan 21, 1997.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "For those who gave everything, Memorial honors 31 firefighters" by Ruth Schubert, Jan 24th, 1997.

The Seattle Times, "Redmond unveils first 1 percent art" by Sarah Lopez Williams, Sep 6th, 1996.

Seattle Chinese Post, "Artist Haiying Wu Create a memorial Sculpture to Early Chinese Railroad Workers" by Jonathan. Moy, pg. B3, June 15, 996.