

Shore to Shore

a public sculpture by Coast Salish artist Luke Marston,
in Stanley Park, Vancouver, Canada
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Long-awaited Shore to Shore sculpture to be unveiled in Stanley Park April 25

In advance of the unveiling, artist Luke Marston will discuss his ambitious project at a news conference April 16 at 10:30 am at the Inuit Gallery of Vancouver, 206 Cambie Street in Gastown.

After five years of painstaking artistic creation, Coast Salish master carver Ts'uts'umutl Luke Marston will unveil his monumental Shore to Shore bronze sculpture at Brockton Point in Stanley Park on Saturday April 25.

The sculpture is a loving tribute to Marston's Coast Salish and Portuguese ancestors who gave birth to an extended family that made a significant mark on the development of BC and its economic and social history. Marston carried out the project with the support of First Nations, the Portuguese Community, the City of Vancouver and Parks Board and Heritage Canada.

The unveiling will take place at 2 pm April 25 at Brockton Point, with First Nations, the Portuguese Community, BC Lt.-Gov. Judith Guichon, City of Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson and councillors, Parks Board chair John Coupar and members of Marston's extended family expected to participate.

Marston will hold a news conference April 16 at 10:30 am at the Inuit Gallery of Vancouver in Gastown, 206 Cambie Street. On display will be the Unity Figure that forms the apex of the 16-foot high sculpture along with a perfect miniature replica of the entire monument. The Unity Figure, a bronze sculpture of a raptor that represents the Canadian eagle and the Portuguese acor, is being sold in replica for \$50,000, as a fundraiser for the project.

The City of Vancouver recently recognized the significance of the Shore to Shore project as a symbol of reconciliation with the First Nations — the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh — for whom Stanley Park and much of the city form part of their traditional territories. As part of that recognition the city has donated \$20,000 from its reconciliation initiative to the project, while the Parks Board has donated \$5,000.

As a spectacular addition to the inventory of Vancouver's public art, Shore to Shore results from generous support from Heritage Canada (Canadian Legacy Fund), the Portuguese Community and Government, First Nations and from Marston's extended Silvey family.

The sculpture is expected to become a major attraction for the 9.5 million visitors who visit Stanley Park each year. It is the focus of a recent book by journalist Suzanne Fournier *Shore to Shore: The Art of Ts'uts'umutl Luke Marston* (Harbour Publishing). The book, as well as a hardcover, keepsake limited edition in a red silk slipcase, signed by the author and the artist, will be on sale at the unveiling, along with Marston's limited edition prints of his design for the project's base.

Marston carved the Shore to Shore sculpture in yellow cedar, then had it cast in bronze. It features three life-size figures — the man known as Portuguese Joe Silvey, pioneer whaler, fisherman and one-time Gastown saloon-keeper who came to this area around 1858 from the Portuguese Azorean island of Pico; his first wife Khaltinaht, a Musqueam noblewoman who died tragically of tuberculosis at a young age leaving two children; and Silvey's second wife Kwatleematt of the Sechelt First Nation, with whom Silvey had nine more children.

Silvey and Khaltinaht and later Kwatleematt lived in a mixed-race community at Brockton Point near where the sculpture is located, until Silvey moved his family to Reid Island off Galiano Island around 1878 to escape growing racism toward mixed race people in Vancouver.

Marston, a highly-accomplished Coast Salish carver and member of the Stz'uminus First Nation on Vancouver Island, is a great-great grandson of Silvey and Kwatleematt. He's one of the hundreds of descendants of the mixed Coast Salish and Portuguese communities whose contributions have left a lasting legacy for the province of British Columbia.

The sculpture sits on a stunning base designed by Marston made of seven tons of black and white mosaic stone imported from Portugal with the support of both the Portuguese government and the Regional Government of the Azores. The stones were installed by a stone mason flown in from the Azores. Costs of construction and installation of the base were provided by Avante Concrete and Fil Jorge.

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