



VICTORIA AIRPORT AUTHORITY

“Installation of new public art piece “Bouquet of Memories” at Victoria Airport underway”

Friday October 6, 2006 09:00 am

For Immediate Release:

Today and tomorrow, artist *Illarion Gallant* will be installing the latest piece of publicly commissioned art at the Departures Area of Victoria International Airport. The 26 foot high aluminum and steel art work is entitled “*Bouquet of Memories*”. This will indeed be a collection of memories!

Last Spring, Gallant invited all students and staff of his neighbourhood school, Frank Hobbs Elementary, to write a paragraph of their favorite memory. The collection of memories will be placed in a sealed capsule in the seedpod of one of the colourful poppies in the sculpture.

“This wonderful sculpture of joyful flowers will bid a lighthearted farewell and lift the spirits of departing travelers. Viewed from afar this colorful and grand bouquet will bring a smile to people arriving in the City of Gardens. The locals will love it knowing there are children’s memories tucked into one of the flowers. “Which one?” was the comment made by Victoria Kuhl, Chair of the Art in the Airport Committee.

Illarion Gallant’s art projects abroad include works in Austria and Germany. Here his works are many and include the aluminum tree sculpture at the Fort Street Medical Building, the Granite Avocados at the Grand Pacific Hotel, and in Toronto, a tribute to Tom Thomson’s canoe in aluminum complete with 76 – 6’ aluminum reeds. Illarion works with his wife and partner Twyla Rusnak combining their talents in landscape design and public art.

This commissioned public art piece and “Airplay”, the stained glass sculpture by Thomas Mercer and Edward Schaefer’s were announced in October 2005. Commissioning and displaying public art are part of the Victoria Airport Authority Board’s commitment to their continuing Art in the Airport Program.

To observe this unique installation and speak with the artist, members of the media are invited to visit the airport this afternoon after 3:00 pm or Wednesday October 11th between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm.

For more information contact:

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