

1. COMMISSIONING OF SCULPTURE FOR NEW ART GALLERY

Officer responsible Director, Robert McDougall Art Gallery	Author P.Anthony Preston, DDI 372-2975
Corporate Plan Output: Art Gallery	

This paper recommends that the Christchurch City Council enter into a contract with Mr Graham Bennett for the commissioning of a sculpture on terms satisfactory to the Art Gallery Manager and the Legal Services Manager. The project has been endorsed by the Art in Public Places Working Party. It was also the subject of a presentation by the artist to the Projects and Property Committee on 10 November 2000 and was endorsed at a full Council meeting on 23 November 2000. The sculpture is an integral part of the new Christchurch Art Gallery building, which has received a resource consent. See attached diagrams and photograph.

NATURE OF THE SCULPTURE

Reasons For Voyaging is a sculpture which has been designed as a welcoming gateway structure at the ceremonial entrance to the new Christchurch Art Gallery building. Comprised of an informal grouping of seven stainless steel poles of varying heights, the sculpture begins at the corner of Worcester and Montreal Streets and makes a directional statement towards the Gallery entrance. The pathway created by these elements reflects the southwest/northeast entry access of the Gallery building, itself an echo of New Zealand's location on the global map and our orientation in the Pacific.

The placement and alignment of the poles have been planned to help stage the occasion of arrival at the Gallery. Consideration has been given to the landscaping features and pavement grid already specified in the architectural design. Although the poles are predominantly constructed from highly polished and reflective stainless steel, it is intended that the bases, or 'human faces', of the poles will also incorporate other materials. Tapered square-section cladding using old native timbers from the Canterbury region is currently under investigation. These familiar and intimate substances will reflect the natural world and, in the case of the reduced pole element within the entrance foyer, will serve to bring the natural world inside the Gallery.

Lifting the eye upwards and reinforcing the connection between earth and sky, dramatic overhead elements made from mirror-finished stainless steel framework will reflect the movement both of the people beneath them and the water and landscape elements which are part of the architectural design. By drawing on the symmetries and asymmetries of traditional Maori and Polynesian canoes, and by using the shapes expressed in traditional navigational systems such as stick charts and star maps, Bennett's design captures the essence and spirit of Te Moana nui A-kiwa, the Pacific Ocean.

In addition to the constant transmutation of the sculpture's surface as it reflects the changing patterns of human movement, weather and light, *Reasons For Voyaging* has been designed to incorporate subtle and secretive movements of the overhead elements. Operated by motors and digital controls, this movement will reactivate spaces in mysterious ways, offering elements of unpredictability. The movement is also reinforced by the changing patterns people will see around them as they move through the poles towards, or away from, Gallery entrance. *Reasons For Voyaging* will be unveiled with the rest of the Christchurch Art Gallery building in March 2003 and will be supported by an exhibition of working drawings and sculptures and a publication documenting the development of the sculpture.

ARTIST BACKGROUND

Graham Bennett, a Principal Lecturer at the Christchurch Polytechnic School of Art and Design, has been, and continues to be, active in tertiary art education. He has participated in over 40 solo exhibitions in New Zealand and overseas since 1980 and has contributed to numerous group shows. In addition, he is represented in most major public collections within New Zealand. With a proven track record in completing large scale and logistically complex projects, Graham Bennett is amply qualified to bring *Reasons For Voyaging* to fruition. It is worth noting, perhaps, that the entry axis of *Reasons For Voyaging* not only echoes that of New Zealand in the Pacific but was also that of both of Bennett's large projects *Sea/Sky/Stone* and *Sea/Sky/Kaipara*. Please see attached Curriculum Vitae for additional information.

PROJECT COSTS

Foundations, lighting, wiring, cables, engineering consultancy \$49,500
(Already accounted for in the building budget for the Christchurch Art Gallery)

Project Costs Covered by this Contract

A)	Bottom components (tube/fin/base pieces, bead blasting, housings, motors, drive shaft, cladding etc)	\$124,115
B)	Top units (stainless steel supply, bending, casting, polishing etc)	\$45,756
C)	General (includes project management, specialist equipment, wrapping, transportation, workshop costs, labour (contract/casual), insurance etc)	\$164,400
D)	Total	\$334,271

PROJECT FUNDING: INTENTIONS FOR FUNDING PROJECT

- **Art in Public Places** – \$60,000 (annual allocation x 3)
- **Committed private sponsorship** - Sir Miles Warren: \$49,500
- C & R Greenwood Bequest: \$90,000
- **Funding sought from Creative New Zealand and/or additional private sponsorship** - \$134,771

Total - \$334,271

Recommendation: That the Council enter into a sculpture commission contract with Mr Graham Bennett as outlined in the report.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.