



Bill & Rebecca Hunt
Kelp Forest Gallery
1738 North Coast Highway
Newport, OR 97365

City of Oak Harbor
Art Proposal Submittal
865 SE Barrington Drive
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

10 January 2011

Dear City of Oak Harbor

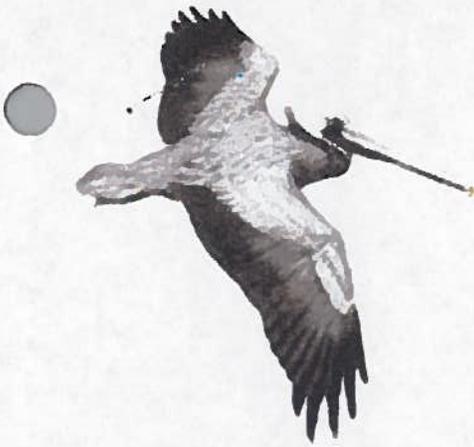
I am writing to introduce ourselves and our work for your consideration for the SE Pioneer Way Improvement Project. I am a 1974 graduate of Humboldt State University with a background in Marine Biology and Fisheries Management. I have been sculpting Marine and Aquatic wildlife since 1979. My interest and involvement in the marine and aquatic environment and it's wildlife, as a scientist and artist seems most appropriate for your theme of "Water - Above, Below, On and Of". My wife Rebecca is a Stained Glass artist and a Graphic Designer. While there is no stained glass in this project, it is Rebecca that produced the watercolor illustrations for this proposal seen elsewhere in this package. We are most interested in developing a set of unique sculptures for the four locations on Pioneer Way, and we think that Marine and Aquatic Wildlife is an excellent fit.

These would be Fabricated Metal Sculptures of Marine and Aquatic fish, mammals and birds. I can sculpt very realistic animals by methods developed over my career as a sculptor. The technique eliminates the time and expense involved in making molds and casting the sculptures in bronze. You get pieces that are sculpted directly in metal, not cast and therefore absolutely unique. I am able to offer larger piece for much less than a bronze of the same size. Fabricated metal pieces are very strong and rigid, and nearly as durable as a bronze casting. I am interested building fabricated metal sculptures for all four locations. A set of sculptures done in my style and technique will provide continuity and tie the four Pioneer Way locations together.

We do have a series of over 80 limited edition bronzes as well. but fabrication is basic, pure sculpture. I am in my mid 60's now and I would like to do as much more of this kind of work as long as I am able. I see this an an opportunity to show what I can do with with my favorite subject matter, in a beautiful and worthy venue. Thank you in advance for your consideration of my work and my proposal.

Sincerely

Bill Hunt



Bill & Rebecca Hunt
Kelp Forest Gallery
1738 North Coast Highway
Newport, OR 97365
541-265-2420
eMail bill@huntstudios.com

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"In His Element"
Harbor Seal
Pioneer Way & S.E. Ireland

I propose to build a life sized Harbor Seal, about 66" long using the steel framework and copper repousse technique described as follows. The welded steel framework for this sculpture would be built out of stock steel rod, bar and tubing. Heavy gauge material is used for outdoor applications such as this. I use 1/4 to 3/8 round stock steel and 16 gauge copper sheet. The steel framework outlines the shape of the seal; sets the stance and attitude, defines muscle groups and becomes a very strong and rigid structure. Copper panels are hammer formed and shaped into compound curves that fit over the steel framework. The hammered copper panels are riveted to the framework and braised together at the seams, producing a solid lightweight sculpture that looks like bronze.

This sculpture will include several fronds of Bull Kelp, engineered to support and elevate the Seal. This is a below the water scene and the seal will be swimming thru the kelp. The Bull Kelp will be fabricated in steel tubing and heavy gauge copper sheet. This forms the structural support for the sculpture. I use a Mittler Bros hydraulic/pneumatic tube bender to create graceful sweeps and bends. I use a TIG welder to join steel tubing. I make tabs and brackets and gussets to reinforce joints. The tubular steel framework is light and very strong like a race car chassis.

Basalt columns will be used to create a heavy and stable base. The kelp stipes (steel tubing) will be secured to the basalt in at several points with masonry anchors and thru bolts. The kelp will flow up the basalt column and sweep around the seal. The seal will be attached to the kelp at several discrete hard points where the kelp stipes touch the body. The attachment points will be very strong, solid and secure. I build the steel framework for the Seal and the

steel tube support together so that everything fits, balances and works esthetically. I do this all before I attach the hammered copper skin., and before I weld the long flat blades of the kelp fronds.

This technique will make the sculpture appear light and open, almost ethereal. The basalt column will rise about 60" The kelp will support the seal at about 8'. The viewer will look up to see the Harbor Seal swimming down thru the kelp as illustrated in Rebecca's attached conceptual watercolor. (The support column will be much taller than shown in the illustration.) While these pieces are very strong, we want to place them out of reach or otherwise inaccessible.

Using the basalt column provides us the opportunity to add a water feature, if possible and feasible at this location. The columns are drilled thru the long axis and plumbed. A hidden pump and sump can be used to create a "Pondless Pond". The water bubbles up and out the top of the Basalt column. It flows down the sides and back into a gravel bed, collected in the sump and recirculated. We have an associate here in Newport that can create the basalt base water feature. He is experienced and aware of safety and engineering issues with this kind of water feature.

We are proposing "In His Element" for one of the smaller locations. We will build, deliver and install this piece within the allotted budget of \$10,000, although we think the sculpture will be worth more than that. I love this design and I want to produce this sculpture.

See "Harbor Seal.pdf" for the illustration of this piece.

See "Wood Bison.pdf" for example of previous work; steel & copper repousse

