

Granddaughter Honors Bellevue's First Public Artist with New Carving Former Bellevue Square Tree the Base for Dynamic New Art in The Lodge

BELLEVUE, Wash. (July 25, 2008) – The work of Dudley Carter, the sculptor who created the first public art piece in Bellevue, *The Forest Deity*, a wooden sculpture at the NE entrance to the west drive of Bellevue Square, will soon come to life again years after his death in 1992 thanks to his granddaughter, Anna Hanson and her husband Lex Hanson. Also a sculptor, Hanson was commissioned by Kemper Development Company to create a massive carving using inspiration from her grandfather's final carving. The new carving, titled *Full Circle*, was installed Thursday, July 24 and dedicated on Friday, July 25 at 10 a.m. in The Lodge at Bellevue Square at a special ceremony with the artist, members of the Bellevue Arts Museum, Kemper Development Company and other members of the community.

This was an historic event that truly represented a number of "full circles." For Bellevue, Dudley Carter was honored by dedicating the piece on the opening day of the Bellevue Arts Fair. Carter participated in the first Bellevue Arts & Craft Fair in 1947. For Kemper Freeman, Jr. the tree, planted to take the place of the beloved 60' Madrona tree that once was the center piece of Bellevue and graced the famous gathering place, the Crabapple Restaurant, lives on in its new form. And for Hanson, she is bringing to life inspirational work in honor of her grandfather, who carved the first public art in Bellevue and Bellevue Square.

"The title of this piece is truly appropriate," says Kemper Freeman, chairman and CEO of Kemper Development Company. "When the old madrona tree died, the Atlantic Cedar (*Cedrus Atlantica*) from which this was carved was planted by my father in the '60s in its place. The Madrona sat in front of The Crabapple Restaurant which was the heart of Bellevue for many years back when Bellevue was just getting started. It was the home of the first Arts Fair and Dudley Carter's *Bird Woman* sculpture was a highlight that year. (The Atlantic Cedar was recently removed to allow for the expansion of Williams-Sonoma and Pottery Barn). It is now coming full circle back to the property. "The carving that inspired the piece was Dudley's and, again in the spirit of coming full circle, his granddaughter brought his work to life using her own extraordinary talent; even using his woodcarving tools. This is truly a magnificent story."

The new carving wraps around the centerpiece of The Lodge, its stone fireplace. The design concept is of waterfowl bursting into flight and is carved in four large pieces that hang from pegs in the massive fireplace. Carved from a log weighing

in at between 5,000 – 6,000 lbs, Hanson spent more than six months carving the piece in her studio in Gibsons, B.C. It was shipped to the site earlier this week.

“My grandfather’s last piece (*Bird Reaching for the Morning*) featured a bird perched on the top in a forked form. That was the nucleus for *Full Circle*,” says Hanson.

According to Hanson, the wood will take up to eight years to fully dry. More than 1,000 gallons worth of chips were generated as the log was hollowed to remove weight and reduce the checking (cracking) as it dries over time. “The project was the most exciting thing I’ve ever done,” says Hanson. “I’ve done giant whales and other sculptures, but it was fascinating to deal with the natural twists and turns of the tree to create the sculpture. That’s how my grandfather worked, letting the wood shape the carving. I felt that he (grandfather) was working through me to complete this project.” Much of the original character of the tree is still visible in the carving. “I had to think in reverse and let the tree’s natural beauty guide me.”

About Dudley Carter and Anna Hanson: Dudley Carter (1891 – 1992) was a renowned Northwest sculptor who was best known for his totem poles, including *The Legend of the Moon* (1977) totem at King County’s Marymoor Park in Redmond. His woodcarving is on display in Washington, Oregon and California as well as Japan and Germany. He is credited with creating the first public art in Bellevue and the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce used his art as the symbol on its letterhead for several decades. Anna Hanson is a recognized sculptor and has commissioned work placed throughout the world.

About The Bellevue Collection

Located in the heart of Bellevue, Washington, The Bellevue Collection includes Bellevue Square, Bellevue Place and Lincoln Square. With a distinctive collection of 250 of the finest shops, 19 sit-down restaurants, a 16-screen premier cinema, 700 luxury hotel rooms and 10,000 free retail parking spaces, all in one location. The Bellevue Collection is an experience unlike any other in the region. It is located on Bellevue Way between NE 4th and NE 10th Street in downtown Bellevue, just across Lake Washington from Seattle.

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