

20th St. West Traffic Signal Cabinets Project Completion Report

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For the wellbeing of peoples, animals, plants and all beings in Saskatoon

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1. Project Statement

Project Title: yú lóng biàn huà / Transformation

Media: hand drawing and painting on aluminium traffic signal cabinet

Project statement:

The inspiration of this art piece comes from my experience of living and working within 20 th St West community. The artistic expression, the culture emerging, the business development, and the humanity enlightenment have been deeply nourishing my heart and mind through everyday life realm. The landscape, people, culture, life quality and many other aspects of this area are transforming day by day. I am very happy that I am able to be part of these transformation, and to give something back to the community through 20th St West Traffic Signal Cabinets Project.

The whole imagery of my creation is to focus on evoking and strengthening the energy which is essential for the transmutation. The concept deriving from this intention is formed from a traditional Chinese fable called yú lóng biàn huà. “yú” means fish, “long” means dragon, “biàn huà” means transformation. The story tells:

Long time ago, some little fishes hear a story from their grandma. If they can find the dragon gate and jump over it, they are able to become dragons. So they swim a very long journey and meet the dragon gate in between the ocean and the river. They try to jump over the gate many times, and finally learn to jump higher by bouncing each other. They jump over the dragon gate one by one, and the last little fish also jumped over the gate with the help from spindrift.

By integrating this old fable and my contemporary life experience in Riversdale, I intent to create a visual symbol at this specific location, to emerge its inherent wellbeing signal visible, and to stimulate the vibrant energy into the community subtly. The objects I choose to form this image is a collection of blessing and fun. The mountains, rivers, clouds, birds, flowers, humans, singing bowl, tea pot, house of heaven, fantasy creatures, outer space messengers, all beings are celebrating the transformation of life among this contemporary everyday life scenario.

I believe that beyond the eastern and western culture or traditions, the story of Yu Long Bian Hua draws a common picture of humankind's longing for harmony and transformation. I look at this installation as a ceremony of celebration, which reminds us that we are not alone, we are all related, we are connecting with our traditions and ancestors, and we are loved constantly.

2. Project Process Reflection

August 2-3: research on outdoor painting and maintaining coating, cabinet surface cleaning and sanding

August 4-6: surface priming and white painting

August 7-20: painting and drawing

August 21: surface cleaning and maintaining coating

cabinet surface cleaning and sanding



surface priming



white painting



painting and drawing



painting and drawing



painting and drawing



surface cleaning and coating



Completed Installation







3. Artwork Maintenance Manual

- **Regular maintenance:** using wet rag (rags only, no abrasives) wiping the surface once every month from May to October. Please do the maintaining when the sun is not direct on the surface during the summer season. (Please do not implement the cleaning from November to April, because it may impact the durability of the surface when the temperature is low.)
- **Special maintenance:**
graffiti – rag (rags only, no abrasives) with Cerafin Cleaner
stickers – rag (rags only, no abrasives) with Methyl Hydrate Gas Line AF
- **Liquid Coating Specialist:**
Bryn Ledingham, Days Paints (Cerafin provider)
Address : 701-2nd Ave N, Saskatoon **Phone** : 306 665 6366

4. Acknowledgement

I deeply appreciate City of Saskatoon offering this opportunity to artists to explore public art expression. This art practice means a lot to me and my practice.

I am very grateful that Jonathon EPP constantly supports and helps me during the whole installation process. His coordination and caring make the project completed well.

Many thanks to Genevieve Russell. Her solid and full support at the back stage is very important and nourishing for me and for the whole project.

Big appreciation to each individual who meet and accompany me during the installation process. Their presence and reflection on my creation inspires me deeply.