



2007

"Confluence"

Outdoor Glass Sculpture

By Debbie Young

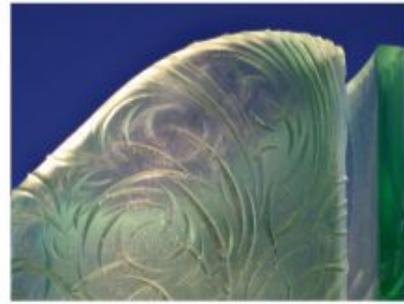
"Confluence"
sculpture by Debbie Young

Glass and bronze sculpture with a concrete base, total height is 12'. Concentric ellipses that radiate out from the bronze base suggest water ripples

Located in the Plaza near City Hall

Photography by Debbie Young





The 2 inch thick, highly textured curved glass changes appearance and coloration at varying times of day or night. As the light changes, the colors range from icy white to blue/green and red/orange.

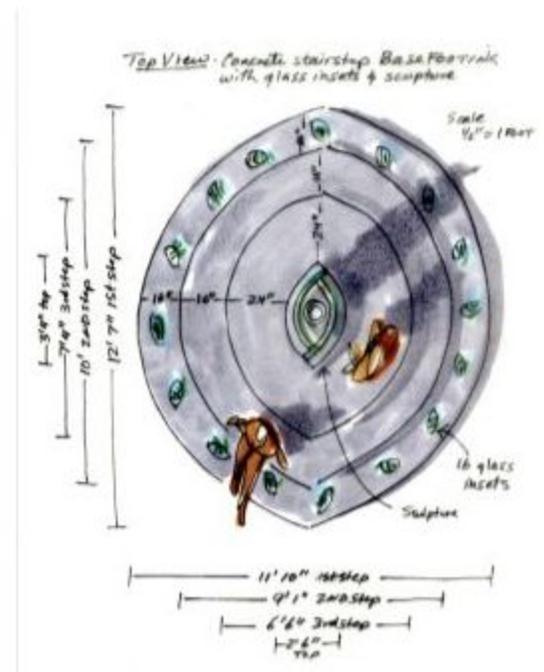
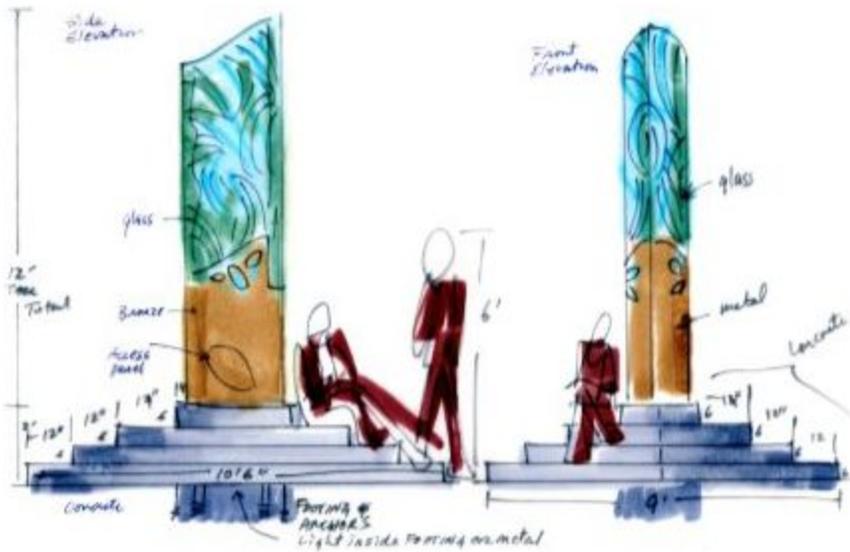
"Confluence" Proposal Statement by Debbie Young

When I first saw the new Sammamish Commons I imagined the signature sculpture as a jewel in a beautiful setting. I decided that a large scale, fused glasswork would create a striking focal point and meeting place for the multi-use facility. The primary design influence for the sculpture is derived from the sweeping South curve of the Sammamish City Hall building that is echoed in the adjacent reflection pond and the circular plaza. In response to these site-specific visual elements, I proposed an elliptical, glass sculpture consisting of 2 - 7' tall by 30" wide by 2" thick, highly textured fused glass monoliths supported by a design-integrated, interiorly lit bronze base mounted on top of a cascading stair-step concrete base.

The natural reference for the "Confluence" is water, ice and the upward movement of wind. The elements of earth and fire are found in the glass as it responds to the changing color of sunlight and moonlight. Colors ranging from cool green/blue to warm yellow/orange reflect in the glass. Its highly textured surface treatment echoes organic patterns found in nature.

I worked with Lundgren Monuments of Seattle Stained Glass to help translate my artistic concept into glass. Gulassa & Company fabricated the custom bronze armature required to support the glass sculpture. Structural engineer M. A. Wright insured that the project addressed all safety concerns required for a public artwork. Susan Rhodes of LightWire designed the interior lighting for the glass sculpture. The stair step concrete base, installed by Ahmet Baran, elevates the sculpture to a total of 12'. The concrete base, when viewed from above, exhibits concentric ellipses that radiate out from the bronze base suggestive of water ripples. The bottom step has small leaf shaped glass details creating a child friendly place for seating.

The Sammamish City Hall location is an important cross road for the city and "Confluence" will serve as a high profile meeting place for visitors and city employees to interact with each other and enjoy the artwork.



The elevation scale drawing with a stair-step base, includes people for scale. The bird's eye view drawing shows the elliptical base and glass insets.



Artist Debbie Young draws the original design in charcoal and transfers it to ceramic kiln paper. The kiln paper is then carved by hand to create a highly textured surface for the fused glass mold.



The plaza is prepared for the concrete stair-step base. The structurally engineered base was built in 4 separate concrete pours by Ahmet Baran.

Thanks

I would like to thank the City of Sammamish, the City Council and the Sammamish Art Commission for trusting me to create "Confluence", it was an honor.

I would like to thank the following members of the sculpture selection jury -

Kimberly Baker - Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, City of Seattle
Sevda Baran - City of Sammamish Project Management
Rex Bond - Sammamish City Hall Architect - ARC Architects
Dianne Elliott - D3 Consulting
Kent Greene - Sammamish Arts Council member
Kathy Huckabay - Sammamish City Council member
Barbara Jirsa - A La Cart Consulting
Deborah Paine - Deborah Paine Fine Art Services
Daphne Robinson - Sammamish Arts Council member

This project was my first experience creating large scale, public art. It was humbling to be responsible for such an important work. Special thanks goes to Lundgren Monuments, Gulassa, M.A. Wright, LightWire and Ahmet Baran for assisting me in the creation of the artwork. Thank you for your patience and expertise, it was great working with all of you.

Debbie Young



May 20, 2008

Sammamish Arts Commission

"Confluence"

Sculpture Dedication

6:00 PM

Welcome

Acknowledgements

and

Dedication

6:20 PM

Convene in Council Chambers for Presentation

By Artist Debbie Young

6:45 - 8:00 PM

Additional Art Work and Reception

In City Hall Gallery

Music provided by ~
Sammamish String Quartet

Darlene Rose~Violin 1

Alla Elfstrom~Violin 2

Myrl Venter~Viola

Yunja Park~Cello

Catering by ~

Alma Nocchi

Wine courtesy of ~

Wine Styles

The Sammamish Arts Commission
invites you to attend

“Confluence”

Sculpture Dedication

*Including additional artwork
by artist Debbie Young in the City Hall Gallery*

May 20th, 2008

Doors open at 5:30pm

Dedication ceremonies begin at 6:00pm
on the Commons

Sammamish City Hall
801 228th Avenue SE
Sammamish, WA

Music provided by
the Sammamish Symphony Quartet
Business casual wear preferred
Refreshments will be served



Sponsored event



"Confluence"

Commissioned by the City of Sammamish,
Created by Artist Debbie Young - 2007

"Confluence" Proposal Statement by Debbie Young

When I first saw the new Sammamish Commons I imagined the signature sculpture as a jewel in a beautiful setting. I decided that a large scale, fused glasswork would create a striking focal point and meeting place for the multi-use facility. The primary design influence for the sculpture is derived from the sweeping South curve of the Sammamish City Hall building that is echoed in the adjacent reflection pond and the circular plaza. In response to these site-specific visual elements, I proposed an elliptical, glass sculpture consisting of 2 - 7' tall by 30" wide by 2" thick, highly textured fused glass monoliths supported by a design-integrated, interiorly lit bronze base mounted on top of a cascading stair-step concrete base.

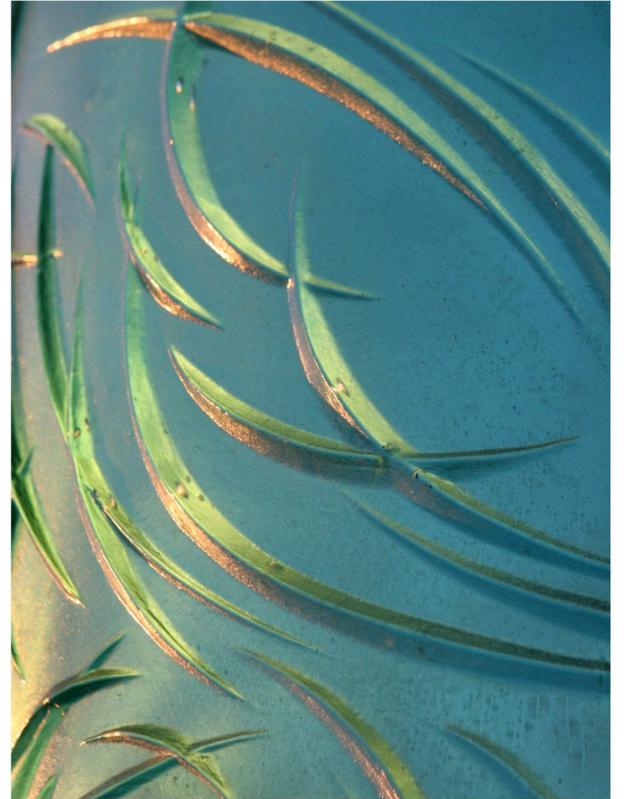
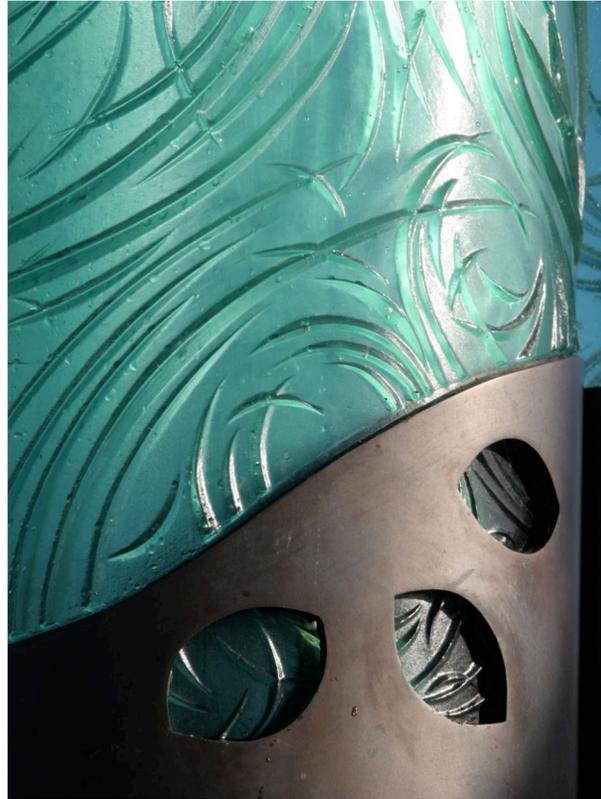
The natural reference for the "Confluence" is water, ice and the upward movement of wind. The elements of earth and fire are found in the glass as it responds to the changing color of sunlight and moonlight. Colors ranging from cool green/blue to warm yellow/orange reflect in the glass. Its highly textured surface treatment echoes organic patterns found in nature.

I worked with Lundgren Monuments of Seattle Stained Glass to help translate my artistic concept into glass. Gulassa & Company fabricated the custom bronze armature required to support the glass sculpture. Structural engineer M. A. Wright insured that the project addressed all safety concerns required for a public artwork. Susan Rhodes of LightWire designed the interior lighting for the glass sculpture. The stair step concrete base, installed by Ahmet Baran, elevates the sculpture to a total of 12'. The concrete base, when viewed from above, exhibits concentric ellipses that radiate out from the bronze base suggestive of water ripples. The bottom step has small leaf shaped glass details creating a child friendly place for seating.

The Sammamish City Hall location is an important cross road for the city and "Confluence" will serve as a high profile meeting place for visitors and city employees to interact with each other and enjoy the artwork.



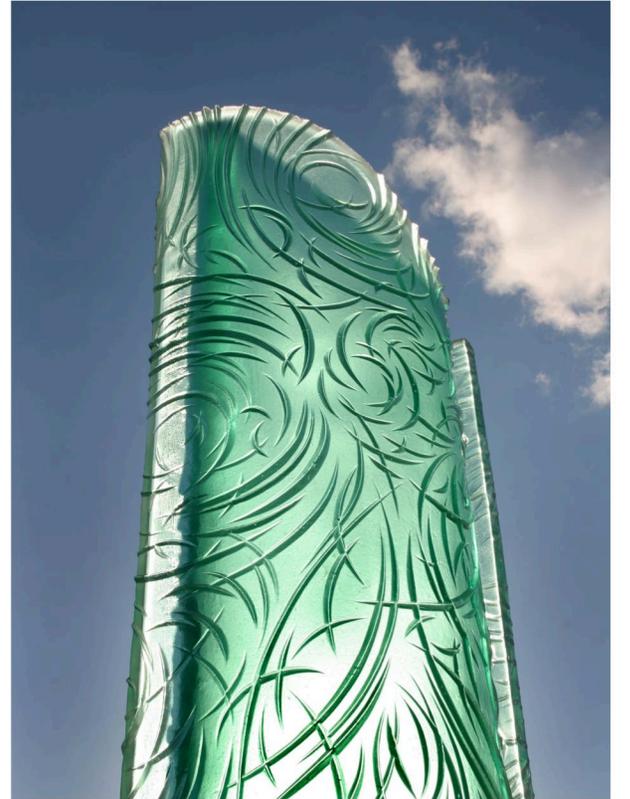
2 "Confluence" in front of the Sammamish City Hall. The curved glass and concrete base design was inspired by the curved roof-line of the city hall building, reflection pond and circular plaza. The ellipse is the dominant design element.







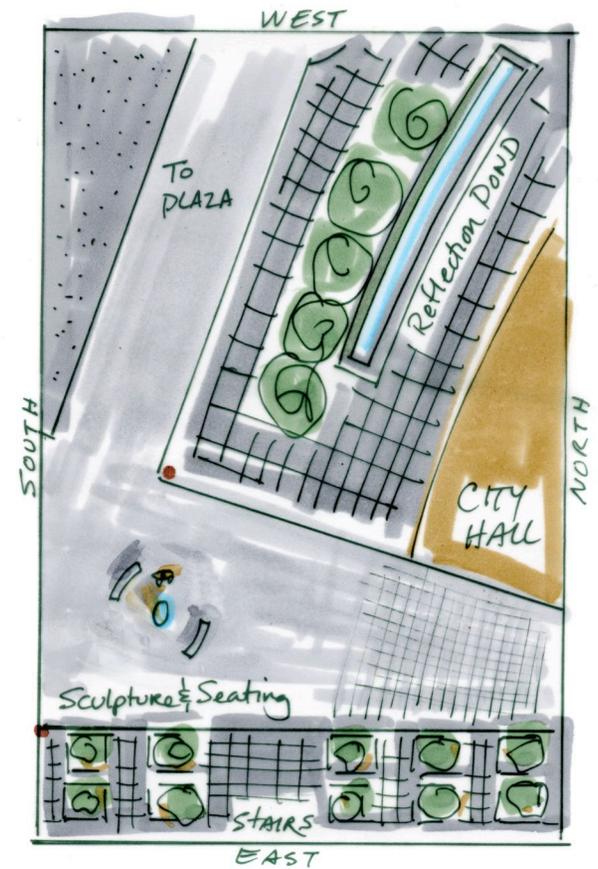


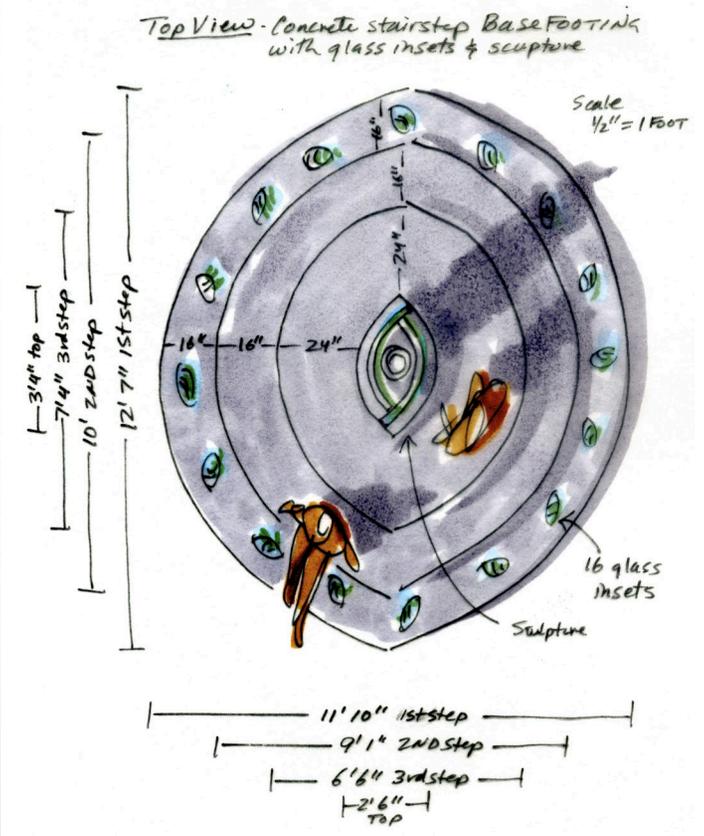
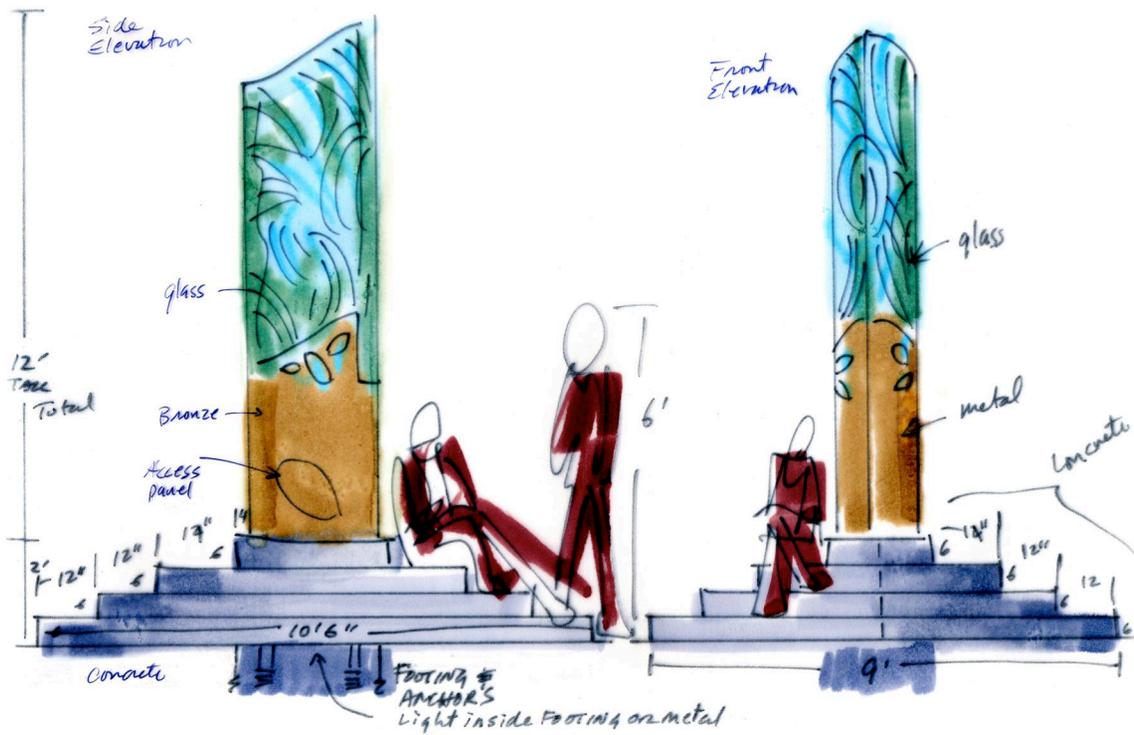


Concept & Scale Model Development

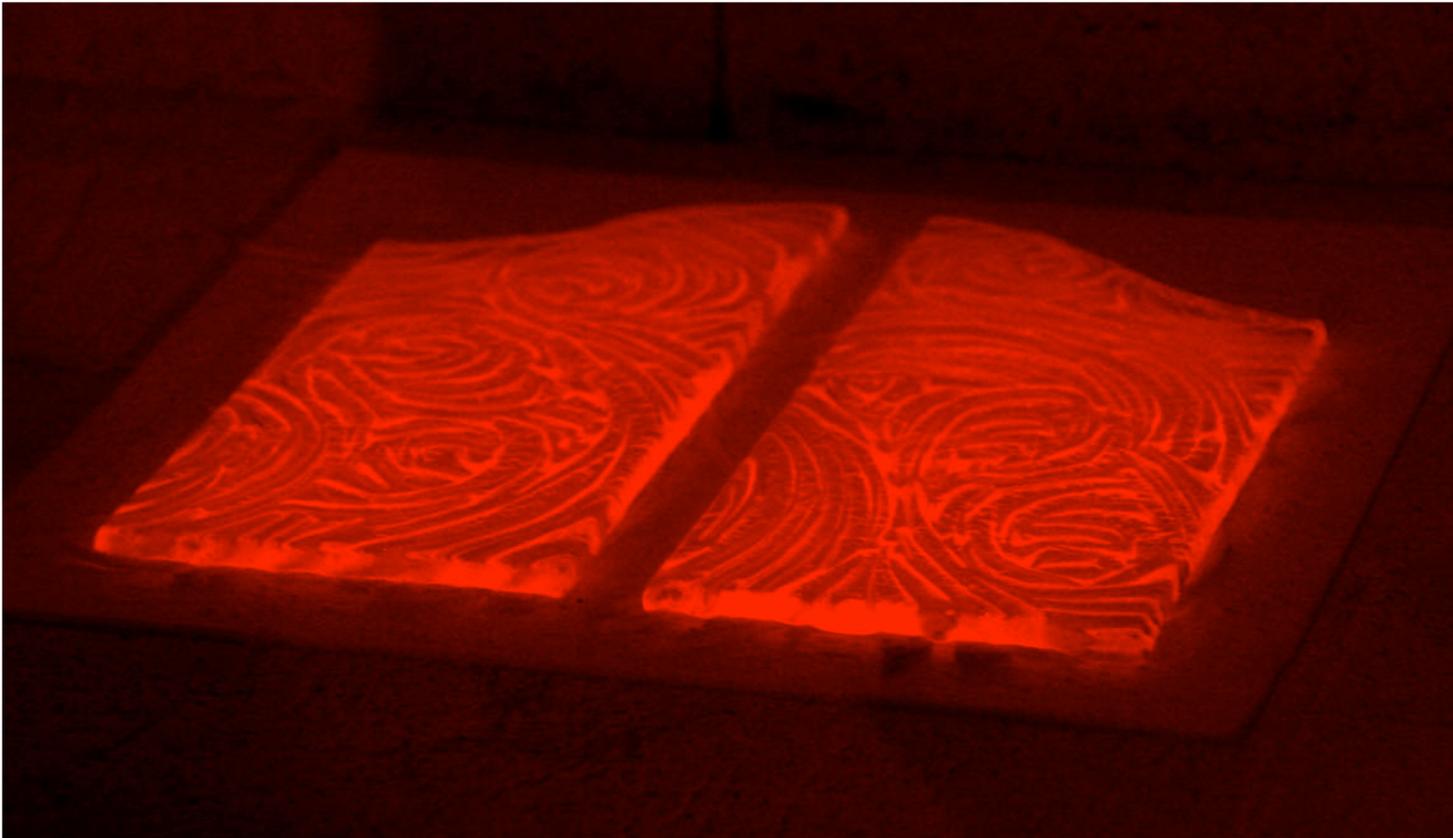
Developing the artwork starts with drawing and as the design progresses modifications are made. Three dimensional models, of various scales, are created to understand the proper relationship of the artwork to the environment. Modeling also illuminates potential fabrication methods.







The elevation scale drawing with a stair-step base, includes people for scale. The bird's eye view drawing shows the elliptical base and glass insets.



12 The original test firing for the glass scale model for "Confluence". The glass is originally fused flat and then slumped in a second firing into the desired curved shape.



The two elliptical glass elements are put together to form a hollow column of glass set in a copper base creating an 8" scale model of the sculpture.



14 A full scale, 12' foot model of the sculpture, made of paper on an armature, is placed on site to assess scale. Full scale, glass sections and an oval glass inset are fabricated and brought by Debbie Young to the site for evaluation.

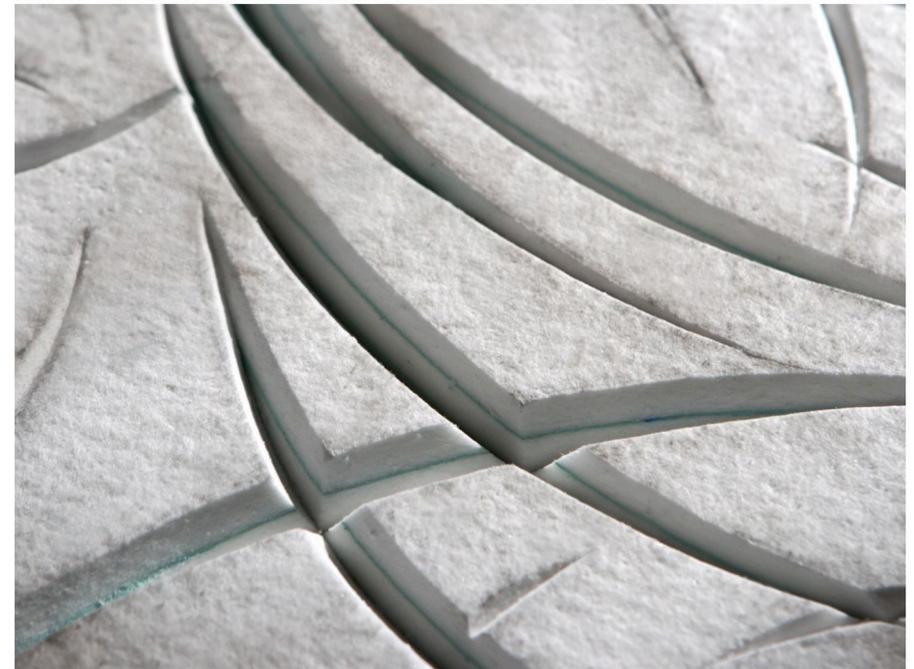
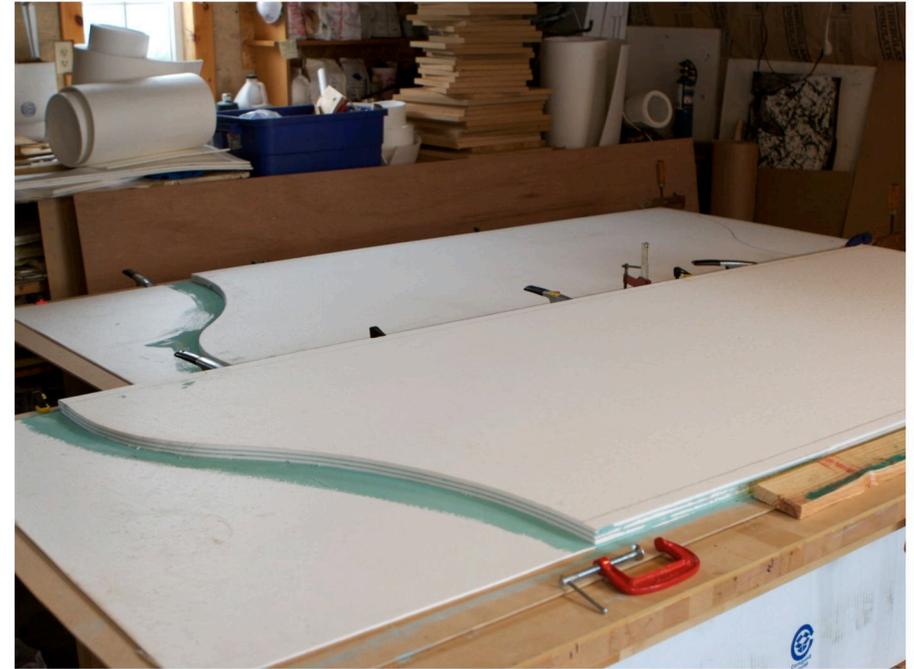


A lighting test is performed using the full scale model of the sculpture. Sevda Baran, Kent Greene and Susan Rhodes discuss the results.

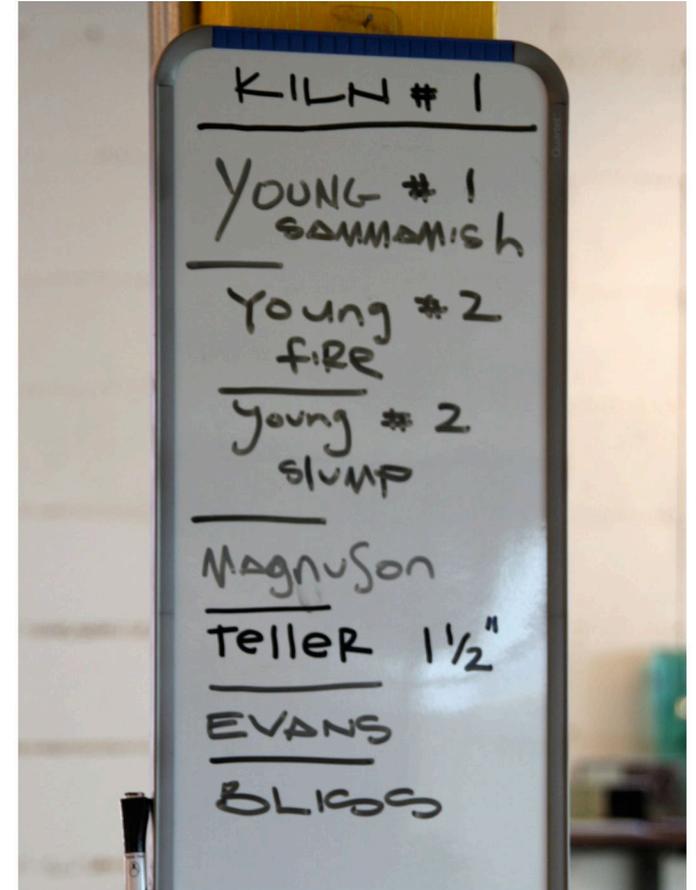
Mold Creation, Glass & Metal Fabrication

The mold creation also starts with drawing. Once the design is established, there are many steps required to realize the original concept into a finished, full-scale sculpture.





18 Artist Debbie Young draws the original design in charcoal and transfers it to ceramic kiln paper. The kiln paper is then carved by hand to create a highly textured surface for the fused glass mold.



The finished molds are crated for transport and delivered to Lundgren Monuments in Seattle and put on the schedule for firing. The molds are destroyed in the firing making the sculpture one of a kind.



20 The mold is coated with a kiln wash release material and a dam is built to hold in the molten glass. 10 sheets of 1/4 inch plate glass are cut the shape of the mold and carefully stacked into the bed for firing.



The glass is fired up to 1600 degrees and then cooled and annealed for several days for strength. The slab is 2 inches thick and weighs 400 pounds.



22 The glass slab is lifted into the kiln onto a rolled steel form for the "slump" firing that will give the glass the desired shape. The glass is brought up to temperature, slumped and annealed again to create the final elliptical work.



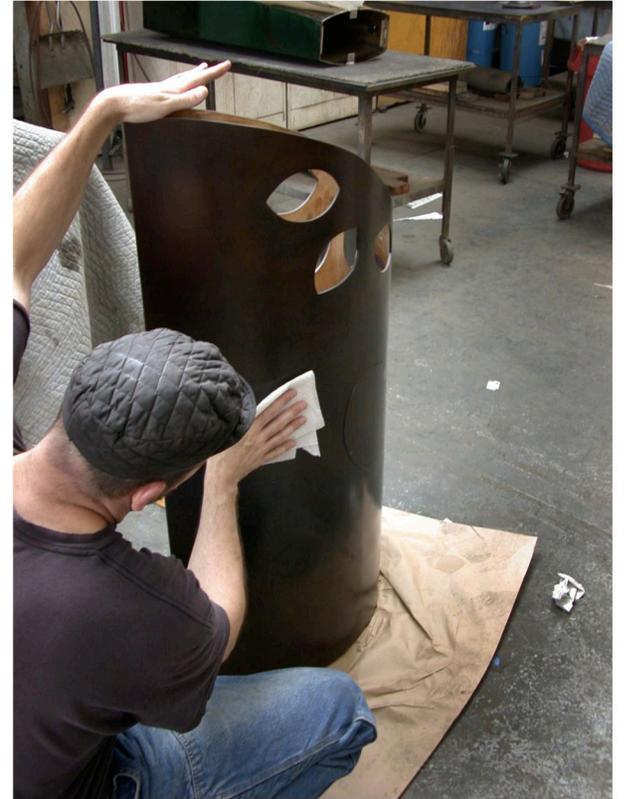
The final glass slab is a perfect ellipse. Sculpture Committee members Kent Greene, Daphne Robinson and Barbara Jirsa visit the fabrication site to see the progress of the work.





The plaza is prepared for the concrete stair-step base. The structurally engineered base was built in 4 separate concrete pours by Ahmet Baran.





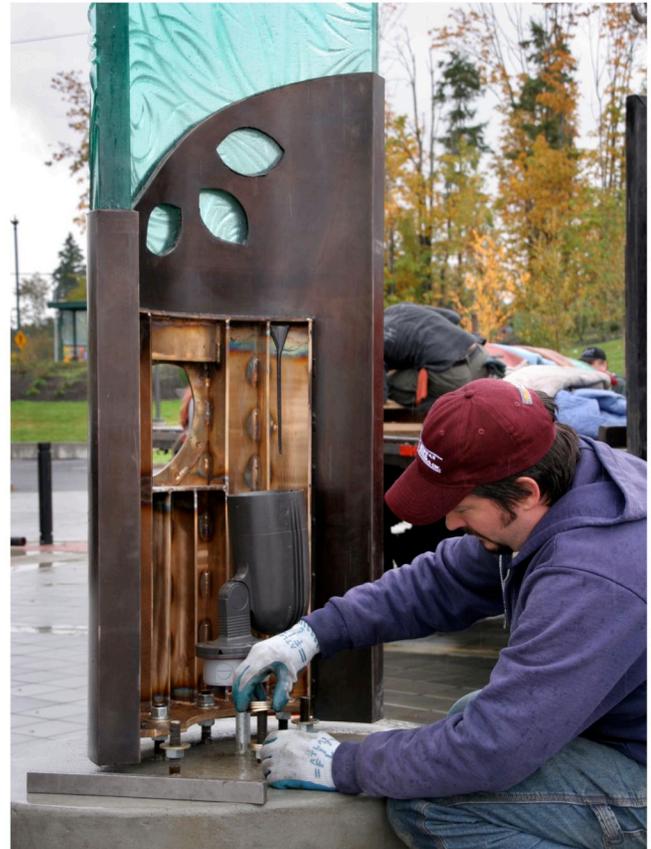
Sculpture Installation

The installation of "Confluence" is a carefully orchestrated event. All aspects of the engineering and installation are thoroughly evaluated by Lundgren Monuments, Gulassa & Company and M.A. Wright, structural engineer, with public safety in mind.





30 The glass sculpture is adhered into the bronze cuff using a strength tested, 3-M Scotch-Weld Epoxy by Lundgren Monuments. It is braced, packed and transported to Sammamish by truck. Each half of the sculpture weighs about 750 pounds.



Gulassa guides the sculpture into place and attaches the bronze base to the concrete base anchors.



32 The second ellipse is carefully craned into place and padded to protect the glass.

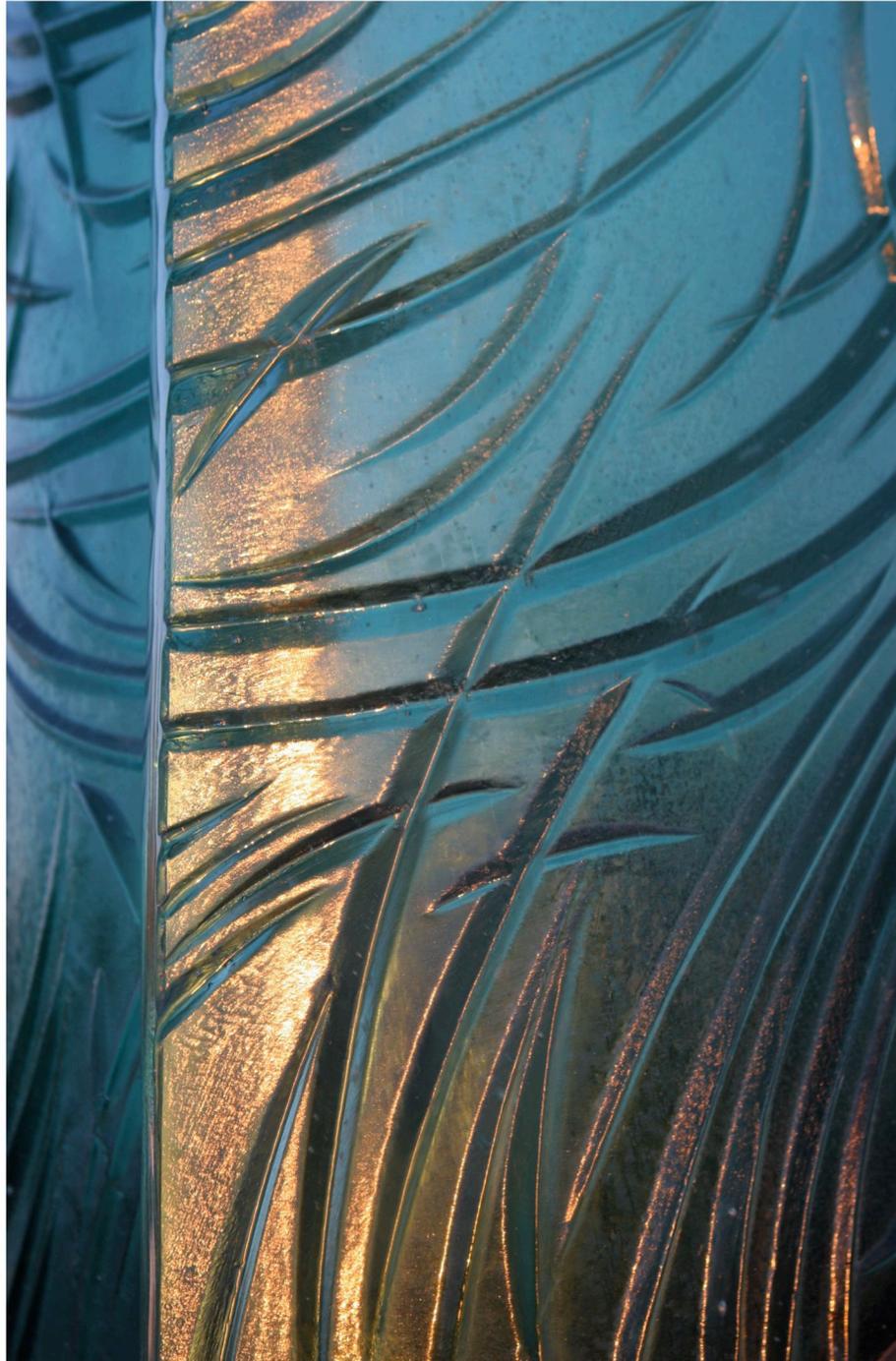




34 "Confluence" is finished and the interior light turns on at dusk.







Thanks

I would like to thank the City of Sammamish, the City Council and the Sammamish Art Commission for trusting me to create "Confluence", it was an honor.

I would like to thank the following members of the sculpture selection jury -

Kimberly Baker - Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs, City of Seattle

Sevda Baran - City of Sammamish Project Management

Rex Bond - Sammamish City Hall Architect - ARC Architects

Dianne Elliott - D3 Consulting

Kent Greene -Sammamish Arts Council member

Kathy Huckabay - Sammamish City Council member

Barbara Jirsa - A La Cart Consulting

Deborah Paine - Deborah Paine Fine Art Services

Daphne Robinson - Sammamish Arts Council member

This project was my first experience creating large scale, public art. It was humbling to be responsible for such an important work. Special thanks goes to Lundgren Monuments, Gulassa, M.A. Wright, LightWire and Ahmet Baran for assisting me in the creation of the artwork. Thank you for your patience and expertise, it was great working with all of you.

Debbie Young



