

New sculpture unveiled at Kelowna Art Gallery

October 27, 2021 – Kelowna, BC: Pedestrians and motorists will encounter a striking new sculptural art piece the next time they're at the corner of Water Street and Cawston Avenue in downtown Kelowna. The sculpture is a project that the Kelowna Art Gallery has been working on for the past three years and has kept under wraps until now.

"We're thrilled to be able to share *Gold, Silver & Lead* with the community," said **Nataley Nagy**, Executive Director at the Gallery. "Our hopes are that it will become a landmark within the downtown public space and will stimulate a lively conversation about visual art in the community."

Gold, Silver & Lead was acquired as a gift to the Kelowna Art Gallery's permanent collection in 2019 and has now been installed outside of the Gallery. The 25-foot-tall sculpture features seven abstracted car bodies that are stacked vertically, rising in a minimalist form. The cars, crafted from epoxy coated steel plate, appear to deteriorate and disassemble as they climb upward, becoming nearly unrecognizable by the time they reach their highest point.

The artist behind the sculpture is **Jed Lind** (Canadian, 1978-) whose work has been exhibited extensively throughout North America. *Gold, Silver, & Lead* was originally presented at the Toronto Sculpture Garden 30th Anniversary exhibition, in 2011.

"I have always been drawn to installations and large-scale sculptures for how they engage and immediately confront the viewer," said Jed Lind. "The thing I love about public art is the variety or perspectives that come to an artwork, which is very different than showing in a gallery or museum. Ultimately, I am not concerned with the takeaway of the piece, but that it causes pause, reflection, or even confrontation."

Viewers may recognize the car frame Lind has reproduced in the monument. It is based on the body of the iconic 1979 Honda Civic and captures the spirit of its original design as a modern, yet humble, car of the future. The Civic was designed as a response to the oil crises of the 1970s when much of North America was forced to ration available gasoline. At that time (of really big cars and their high consumption V8 engines) the fuel-efficient Civic was seen as a hopeful way forward. Its slogan, "Think Simple," lends itself to Lind's act of taking this symbol of mobility and progress and paring it down to the basics.

"*Gold, Silver & Lead*, I hope, poses questions about obsolescence, minimalism, salvaging, and deterioration," says Lind. "Like a stack of stones marking a trail, it represents a fork in the road where humanity could have chosen a simpler existence... yet here we are today."

Equal parts philosophical and architectural, *Gold, Silver & Lead* invites viewers to reflect on their own movement, their destination, and society's connection to the urban and natural environments.

Jed Lind divides his time between Toronto and Los Angeles and exhibits widely in North America and abroad. He has shown at such notable venues as the Power Plant Museum, Wignall Museum, Shoshana Wayne Gallery, Pitzer Art Galleries, Laguna Art Museum, Albright Knox Museum, John Michael Kohler Art Center, and Steve Turner Contemporary. He has received major public commissions in Canada and the United States.

The Kelowna Art Gallery is located at 1315 Water Street, in the heart of downtown Kelowna.

About the Kelowna Art Gallery

The Kelowna Art Gallery engages, inspires, and enriches the community it serves through the exhibition, collection, and interpretation of visual art. Work by Canadian artists, both historical and contemporary, are presented in five distinct exhibition spaces. The Kelowna Art gallery is invested in the idea that art helps to bring people together; and that life is just better with art in it. Programs for people of all ages complement the exhibitions and help to foster creativity, as well as to engender meaningful dialogue on matters important to Canadians.

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