

Art for the people

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SUN PEAKS WILL SOON BE HOME

to two new pieces of artwork from an acclaimed sculptor of the Pacific Rim.

Edward "Mick" Brownlee, a renowned sculptor from Oregon, has been commissioned to create two wooden sculptures for the Kookaburra Lodge, a high-profile development expected to open in March.

Specializing in architectural sculpture, Brownlee has been crafting beautiful artwork since the 1950s. A pod of dolphins leaping out of the clear waters of the Formal Hibiscus Pool at the Grand Wailea Resort is one of his many famous works. Hailed as the Artist of the Pacific Rim, Brownlee was the first to receive a master of fine arts degree from the University of Hawaii-Manoa. Considered an expert on Pacific Rim art, his sculptures can be seen in the Honolulu Academy of Arts, Hawaii State Art Museum and various resorts in the area.

"The forms of the two carved poles are called Sun Shadow and Moon Shadow," explained Brownlee. "The images are derived from the shadows or projections of the sun in the day and the moon at night as they filter down through the trees onto the snow and rocks."

"The concept (of the artwork for the Kookaburra Lodge) was developed with the idea of the uniqueness of the lodge and its surroundings," he added.

Made from a single second growth red cedar log that fell after a storm last year, the Sun Shadow is expected to be a towering 10

feet high while Moon Shadow stands two feet shorter. Both are three feet in diameter. The designs for the sculptures were drawn and carved onto the logs after which they were sanded and stained with an oil-based stain to preserve their beauty.

Apart from the wooden sculptures, Brownlee also provided the design concepts for other artworks to appear at the Kookaburra Lodge.

"The bold wooden sculptures outside will reinforce the key village corner and be a place to visit and relax in," said Australian architect and developer Jim Farrell of the carved cedar logs' planned location.

Brownlee and Farrell have previously collaborated and found they share the same vision when it comes to art.

"Living in Hawaii when Jim was gaining experience as a young architect, we found we both felt the importance of art as a part of architecture," said Brownlee. It was this artist's same vision that was instrumental in helping create a program called Art in Public Places for Hawaii's State Foundation on Culture and the Arts.

Apart from the cedar log sculptures, the lodge will also feature a Kookaburra Tree, a Kookaburra Sculpture, an elevator frieze and a bell tower.

"It never ceases to amaze me the ideas and talent that's embodied in many people if

it can only be released," observed Farrell. "We certainly appreciate the response we've had from the artists and tradesmen working on the project with us to date and the idea that they've contributed to the overall result."

Farrell believes "arts and crafts are an intrinsic quality of our culture and, for humans to thrive, the need for its expression is fundamental to our well-being."

"Many public and well-resolved private building projects incorporate arts and craft into the design and construction program as a key component of the finished environment so that it enriches the lives of those using it. Projects like Kookaburra Lodge are no different and whilst there's no mandated obligation to incorporate these elements into the project at Sun Peaks, it doesn't relieve us of the obligation to respond to these needs."



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

LIGHT SHADOWS: American sculptor Mike Brownlee works on cedar log sculptures "Sun Shadow" and "Moon Shadow" which will be displayed outside the Kookaburra Lodge.