



ELIZABETH ROY

23 mother tongue/first language learned

Guildford RCMP, 14768 104 Ave (along roofline)
December 2004

The title Mother Tongue/First Language Learned captures the idea that, for each member of the community, there is a need to claim a heritage that here is represented by language. Accompanying this desire is the wish to instill pride and commitment in shared goals and values.

In a very real sense, the artwork establishes itself as a beacon for a message that acknowledges the identities and individualities of diversity, linked together and reinforced through the RCMP's tradition of bridging community strengths.

The physical form of the artwork knits together sculptural versions of actual word forms selected from the RCMP vision statement translated into the demographics for mother tongue in the Guildford community. The words are: respect, community, compassion, responsibility, integrity, empowerment, honesty, and professionalism. Eight languages are represented: English, Chinese, Korean, Punjabi, Tagalog, Hindi, German, French.

Elizabeth Roy was born in Ottawa and resides in Vancouver. She received her MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art, Michigan, in 1984. She is currently teaching at the Surrey campus of Kwantlen University College. From a strong foundation in drawing and printmaking, Elizabeth transfers ideas and experiences of place into enduring, visually accessible works in metal. Her public art commissions include six life-sized figurative silhouettes that represent local residents of North Vancouver (Timekeepers, 2001); laser cut stainless steel elements describing everyday objects and actions suspended from utility cables above Vancouver's Ridgeway Greenway (Converging Lines, 1998); and free-standing structures in stainless and corten steel with images that reference Richmond's natural, architectural and geographic characteristics (Span, 2000).

City of Surrey Public and Community Art Collection

