

9 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT...

About Art Panels at the Canadian Port of Entry

With roots in southern Ontario, Sara Graham was the artist chosen to work with the Gordie Howe International Bridge team to develop an artistic installation for the façade of the maintenance building at the Canadian Port of Entry. This commission will welcome travellers, showcasing positive imagery and inspiring conversation. Here are some quick facts on the artistic design and installation process.

1

MAPPING THE WAY

Focusing on the Canadian landscape, a combined use of illustrative maps and a variety of symbols representing road systems, farmland, urban centres, water and nature were used to create the design on each panel.



2

CONCRETE EXAMPLES

The art appears on 22 stamped pre-cast concrete panels, each configured differently, integrated into the exterior of the maintenance building at the Canadian Port of Entry.



3

ARTISTIC VIEW

Panels are approximately 3x7 metres/10x23 feet and cover close to 455 square metres/4,898 square feet of the maintenance building.



4

A WEIGHTY PROPOSITION

Approximately 300 tonnes/600,000 pounds of concrete was used to create the installation. Each panel weighs between 13-16 tonnes/27,000-32,000 pounds. That is approximately the weight of three adult elephants.



5

HIGH-TECH MACHINERY

Once designed, the panel art files were sent to a form work supplier to create a cast using a computer numerical control (CNC) machine. This high-tech machinery used pre-programmed computer software to cut and create a seamless, one-piece master mold.



6

RUBBER STAMPED

Panel molds were made of rubber, known as form liners, and took about three months to complete.



7

A DAY'S WORK

RES Precast, based out of Innisfil, Ontario, created the panels. Each panel took approximately 24 hours to create. Form liners were laid out in the morning along with the first layer of concrete. Wire mesh and steel were then placed with more concrete. Next came a layer of insulation and even more concrete. This needed to sit overnight before it could be stripped off the floor.



8

HEAVY LIFTING

Installing the panels to the exterior of the building required the use of a LTM 1095-5.1 mobile crane and five workers. The panels are bolted to the structural steel frame of the building and took approximately two weeks to install.



9

THE FULL PICTURE

From creation of the designs to completion of the product, the entire process to develop the artistic drawings and install the panels started in 2021 and was completed by June 2022.



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