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Unveiling the Eagle

During the winter of 2000, Chwat & Company worked with Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-NY) and the firm's client, the Newington-Cropsey Foundation to successfully unveil a 17-foot bronze sculpture, by Greg Wyatt, the "Soaring American Eagle" in the North Courtyard of the U.S. State Department building in Washington, D.C.

Work in Progress



Almost six tons of cast bronze, "Soaring Eagle" completes its journey from New York as it inches up to the Harry S. Truman Building.

Photo by Renos Williams, GSA/JFI

By Paul Koscak

Renowned artist Greg Wyatt's inspiration for "world peace, the security of the United States and global community" is captured in his massive bronze sculpture of a magnificent American eagle soaring skyward.

"Soaring Eagle," the 11,600-pound artwork that now rests in the north courtyard of the Harry S. Truman Building, is intended to keep inspiring those who pass through the sheltered space.

"Perched here in the north courtyard where hundreds of diplomats and staff enjoy quiet moments, Soaring Eagle may remind us of our unique mission in the world," remarked Bonnie Cohen, under secretary of State for Management, about the 17-foot-tall sculpture. "America's finest public servants work to ensure that the democratic

'The Eagle Has Landed'

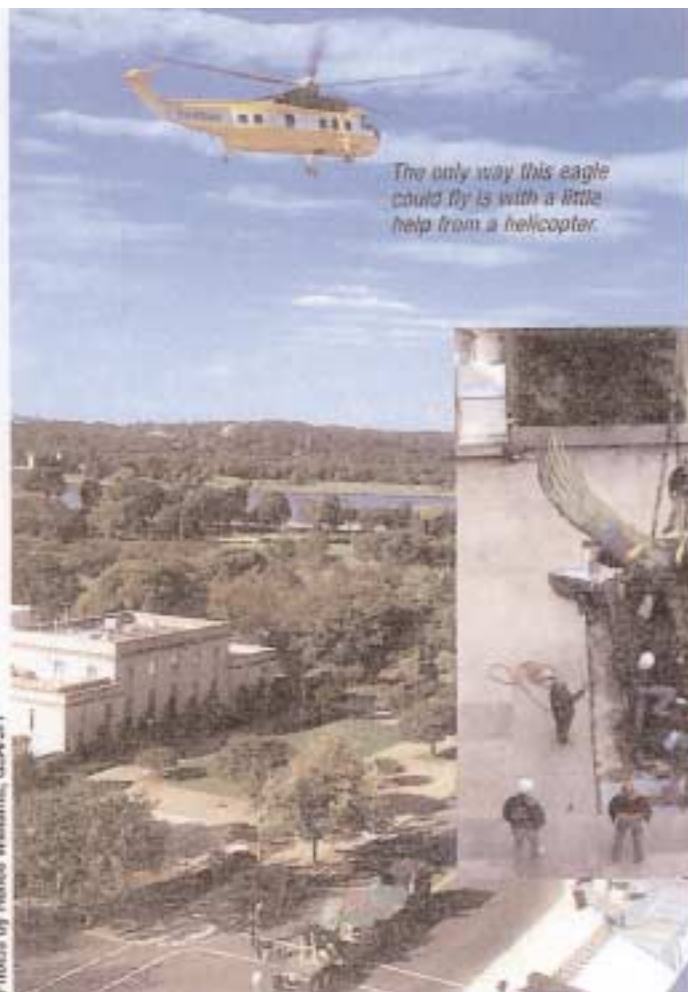
tide remains a rising tide and to protect America's interests and values throughout the world."

A millennium gift to the State Department from the New York-based Newington-Cropsey Foundation, the work was officially unveiled Oct. 20 to

more than 100 guests and officials.

The foundation maintains a long tradition of public support for the arts and appreciation of 19th-century America. The sculpture isn't the first gift from the foundation. In 1972, John Newington and his wife donated "Farm on the Hudson," an 1879 oil painting by Jasper Cropsey, which hangs in the Benjamin Franklin diplomatic reception room.

Wyatt, 51, grew up in the Hudson River Valley, just south of Nyack, home of artist Edward Hopper. Wyatt's works grace some of the finest private and corporate



The only way this eagle could fly is with a little help from a helicopter.

collections throughout the country. They include bronze monuments at Hofstra and Vanderbilt universities and a 12-foot-high "James Cash Penney Standing Portrait" at J.C. Penney Company's headquarters in Plano, Texas. He also designed the 10-foot "Eagle" at the American Bureau of Shipping and a 40-foot-high "Peace Fountain" at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, both in Manhattan.

Soaring Eagle was cast by Tallix, a Fishkill, N.Y., foundry that specializes in fabrications for sculptors, architects and designers and works in a variety of mediums, including aluminum, brass, iron, pewter, stainless steel and resin.

The sculpture was trucked to Washington, D.C., then lifted by helicopter over the Harry S. Truman Building and gingerly lowered into the building's north courtyard as it dangled from a 150-foot cable.

The Eagle sculpture complements another colossal creation that's dominated the south courtyard since 1963. "Expanding Universe Fountain," created by artist Marshall Fredericks, features an Atlas-like man crouching on a 10-foot sphere. His outstretched hands hold two planets he's hurling into space. ■

The author is a writer-editor for State Magazine.

Gail F. Serfaty, director of the Diplomatic Reception Rooms, introduces guests at the Soaring Eagle unveiling. Front row, from left, Bonnie Cohen, under secretary for Management; Barbara Newington, chairwoman of the board of trustees and director of the Newington-Cropsey Foundation. Second row, from left, Roger Pringle, director, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust; Lee Balter, chairman, Tallix Art Foundry; Greg Wyatt, sculptor of the Soaring Eagle.

