

Photographer ‘natural choice’ for Marque facade

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Artist and Mount Allison University professor Thaddeus Holownia has been hired to create an original work of art to be integrated into the Queen’s Marque facade in downtown Halifax.

The Armour Group, developer of the project, said in a news release that Holownia was chosen because of his “evocative body of art, which reflects the environment and the interaction between natural and unnatural elements through time, themes which inspire the shapes and design of Queen’s Marque.”

“Thaddeus’s photographic artwork is the natural choice for this monumental, contemporary ‘shroud’ at the foot of George Street,” said architect Brian MacKay-Lyons.

“Its water theme introduces the public to the waterfront and expresses the developer’s ambition for the public life of our city.”

Holownia chose an aquatic theme for the piece after exploring the ethos behind Queen’s Marque, a mixed-use building due to open next year.

“Water represents itself in the minutia; a drop in its state is as large as an entire ocean, all at once,” he said.

“The reason aquatic images are so profound is the macro of water is like looking at the whole ocean. There is an infinity to it. Whether looking at the ocean from an airplane, or staring at a puddle in the wind, the effects of water are common. By bringing the image to ground level and at a human scale, we are subconsciously asking someone to be sensitive to something that is so common.”

Holownia’s original photograph will be translated into an abstraction and embedded into perforated metal panels, resulting in an abstract mural depicted through shadow and colour within the copper-infused metal.

This commission is the first of several original works planned for the Queen’s Marque district to be created by different artists representing varying genres.

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