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**FACT SHEET FOR GWYNN MURRILL ON AVENUE OF THE STARS**

**PROJECT NAME:** *Gwynn Murrill on Avenue of The Stars*

**ARTIST/SCULPTOR:** Gwynn Murrill

**EXHIBIT TEAM:** Gwynn Murrill – Artist/Sculptor  
Carl Schlosberg, Carl Schlosberg Fine Arts - Curator

**SPONSERS:** L.A. Louver  
ValleyCrest Landscape Companies  
Carl Schlosberg Fine Arts  
Century City Foundation  
Century City Chamber of Commerce Arts Council  
Sculpture Committee  
Gainsborough Capital  
Century City BID Association

**PROJECT SIZE:** .9 miles – 3 blocks

**PROJECT Location:** Santa Monica Blvd to Pico Blvd. along  
Avenue of the Stars in Century City, CA

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Matthew Fried Photography  
Erich Koyama  
Courtesy LA Louver

**EXHIBIT DATES:** November, 2012 – October 2013

## **Gwynn Murrill Exhibition:**

*Gwynn Murrill on Avenue of The Stars* is Century City's first outdoor sculpture project. The exhibition features bronze sculptures that the artist has created over the past twenty years, positioned in a manner that fuses landscape, architecture and art into an environmental experience. A series of twenty-two life-size bronze animal sculptures, including wild coyotes, tigers, deer, panthers, big horn sheep, a horse and an eagle depicted in flight, come together in a grand urban installation.

## **Gwynn Murrill:**

Los Angeles artist and internationally acclaimed, Gwynn Murrill, is known for sculpting the animal form, sculptures are not bound by the literal representation of animals. Drawn to aspects of the natural environment and the complex beauty of wildlife, Murrill's principal subject is the animal form. Each sculpture depicts the unique essence of the subject, pairing essential, universal characteristics with the spirit of each animal so that each piece takes on a life of its own. Gwynn Murrill has shown her work in galleries and museums throughout the United States and overseas and her sculptures are represented in many public collections, including those of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena; and the American Embassy, Singapore. Her awards include a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Endowment of the Arts Individual Artist Grant, and a Prix di Roma Fellowship from the American Academy in Rome. Murrill lives and works in Los Angeles.

Gwynn Murrill is represented by L.A. Louver, Venice, CA; [www.lalouver.com/Murrill](http://www.lalouver.com/Murrill).

## **Timing and Events:**

The *Gwynn Murrill on Avenue of The Stars* exhibition opened on November 15, 2012 with a celebration and ceremony for the community, including appearances and introductions by local dignitaries. More events are to follow during the year long run of the exhibition.

## **Sponsors:**

Developed by the Century City Chamber of Commerce Arts Council's Sculpture Committee, Murrill's exhibit is the first in an ongoing outdoor sculpture art project along Avenue of the Stars in Century City. The landscape was designed, installed, and maintained by ValleyCrest Landscape Companies.

## **ValleyCrest Landscape Companies**

Founded in 1949, Calabasas, Calif.-based ValleyCrest Landscape Companies is the nation's largest integrated landscape services company with annual revenues of more than \$850 million, more than 10,000 employees and operations in more than 150 locations nationwide. ValleyCrest, which ranks on Forbes Magazine's list of America's 500 Largest Private Companies, is commissioned by architects, developers, commercial real estate owners, public agencies, property managers and luxury home builders to help create, build or maintain some of the world's extraordinary natural environments. For more information about ValleyCrest, please visit <http://www.valleycrest.com>. ValleyCrest is the WORKFORCE of NATURE®.

### **Carl Schlosberg Fine Arts**

Carl Schlosberg Fine Arts exhibits contemporary sculpture, paintings, and prints. Establishing himself as a private art dealer in 1972, Carl Schlosberg had bi-annual exhibitions in his home for thirty years before moving to Century City a decade ago. He has curated outdoor sculpture exhibitions in the city of Malibu as well as in suites at the Peninsula Hotel, Beverly Hills. He served as chair of the Smalley Garden at the American Jewish University and is currently chair of the sculpture committee of the Century City Chamber of Commerce Arts Council.

[www.malibusculpture2010.com](http://www.malibusculpture2010.com)

### **L.A. Louver**

L.A. Louver specializes in contemporary American and European painting and sculpture, through a vigorous program of museum-quality exhibitions. Founded by Peter Goulds in 1975 in Venice, California, L.A. Louver was one of the first exhibition spaces in Venice. Since its inception, the gallery has balanced its commitment to representing local established and emerging artists, with introducing artists from across the country and across the world to a Southern Californian audience. For more information about L.A. Louver, please visit

[www.lalouer.com](http://www.lalouer.com) or e-mail [info@lalouer.com](mailto:info@lalouer.com).

### **Century City Foundation**

The Century City Foundation is an IRS approved Section 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation devoted to promoting the charitable, scientific, literary and educational needs of the Century City community. The mission of the Century City Foundation is to assist as appropriate to expand the vision and the horizon of the community. The Century City Foundation is pleased to participate in the sponsorship of the Gwynn Murrill exhibit on the Avenue of the Stars.

### **Gainsborough Capital**

Gainsborough Capital is an independent private Registered Investment Advisory firm based in Century City, serving significant private investors, especially wealth builders. The firm invests with two preferred asset managers – one offshore, one onshore – with long-standing performance records and access to best-of-class talent and opportunities for diversification worldwide. [www.gainsboroughcapital.com](http://www.gainsboroughcapital.com)

### **Century City Chamber of Commerce:**

The mission of the Century City Chamber of Commerce is to promote the best interests of Century City and its membership, serving as the unifying voice for business development and civic growth, through effective communication, events and programs making Century City the preferred place to live, work, visit and shop within the City of Los Angeles.

[www.centurycitycc.com](http://www.centurycitycc.com)

### **Century City Chamber of Commerce Arts Council**

#### **Jean Tardy-Valleraud, Chair:**

The mission of the Arts Council is to enhance quality of life and provide leadership in Century City and its surrounding communities through the promotion and support of a broad range of artistic activities and initiatives. As a development arm of the Century City Chamber of Commerce, the Council serves as a catalyst for and a major contributor to the economic and cultural vitality of this community.

## **Century City BID Association**

A coalition of property and business owners to provide services that specially benefit individual parcels in the business district of Century City. The purpose of the CCBID is to provide clean, safe and beautiful services and activities that are above and beyond what the City of Los Angeles currently provides. [www.centurycitybid.com](http://www.centurycitybid.com)

## **Artwork Background Information Sheet**

### **Photo Legend:**

#### **1a/b. Location: at Santa Monica Blvd.**

*Big Flying Eagle*, 2012

Bronze

Edition 2 of 3

46 x 120 x 76 inches

Overall size with base: 108 x 132 x 46 inches

***Big Flying Eagle*** is the “gateway” piece to the exhibition positioned at the Santa Monica Blvd intersection of Avenue of The Stars. The large bronze Eagle is perched on a painted steel arch, as if either preparing for flight or just returning to watch over the avenue.

This piece is the second casting in the edition; the first cast in 2003, sits atop a 22 ft. tall bronze tree trunk in the atrium of the Target Corporation headquarters in Minneapolis, MN. Murrill wanted to give viewers a closer look at the piece, and the Century City installation was the perfect situation to bring the piece in down closer, to eye level.

### **Photo Credits**

**1a. *Big Flying Eagle*, 2012 - Matthew Fried Photography**

**1b. *Big Flying Eagle*, 2012 - Erich Koyama**

#### **2a/b. Location: between Santa Monica Blvd. and Constellation Blvd.**

*Coyotes*

Coyote IV, 2009

Bronze

Edition 6 of 6

23 x 50 x 11 inches

Coyote I, 2004

Bronze

Edition 6 of 6

21 x 51 x 9 inches

Coyote VII, 1996

Bronze

Edition 6 of 6

28 x 36 x 13 inches

Murrill's **Coyotes** series was inspired by her life in the Santa Monica Mountains. However, she actually began carving the original three Coyote sculptures while on an extended trip to Hawaii, from native Koa wood. These pieces became the first series Murrill was to show together as a group work. She eventually took molds of the Koa wood Coyotes. *Coyote I* was one of Murrill's first pieces in cast bronze in 1983. Upon being awarded a National Endowment For The Arts grant in 1985 she was able to cast the remaining two sculptures in bronze, as well as begin work on an additional 4 pieces in the series.

Within the Century City installation, Murrill's three *Coyotes* merge the indigenous environment with the urban landscape. In a similar fashion, her *Deer* sculpture take over the median in front of the InterContinental.

**Photo Credits:**

**2a. *Coyotes* - Courtesy LA Louver, Venice CA**

**2b. *Coyote VII*, 1996 - Courtesy LA Louver, Venice C**

**3a/b/c. Location: Fountain in front of Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel**

*Five Tigers*

3a. Tiger 3, 2004

Bronze

Edition 3 of 6

48 x 91 x 23 inches

3b. Tiger 1, 2001

Bronze

Edition 1 of 6

39 x 54 x 27 inches

3c. Tiger 2, 2001

Bronze

Edition 2 of 6

42 x 62 x 31 inches

Tiger 4, 2001

Bronze

Edition 1 of 6

57 x 76 x 21 inches

Tiger 5, 2003

Bronze

Edition 1 of 6

32 x 97 x 24 inches

During the development of Murrill's *Five Tigers*, it was in the relationship between a group tigers as they formed a circle during a circus act that she found inspiration. Remembering her initial composition, Murrill says, "I sculpted each tiger to be looking toward the center of an invisible ring, as if an imaginary trainer stood directing the group. In this way, the focus of the composition would be on the empty space in the center, as well as on the space between each of the tigers.

The Fountain, in front of the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza, has become the perfect environment to define a new relationship between each Tiger and the space surrounding them. This time Murrill directs her Tigers' "attention" outward at the viewer. The composition simultaneously manifests the serenity found in the pool they surround, and magnifies the tension between the Tigers and the humanity, which surrounds them.

Many hours of negotiation went into the approval of the placement on the Welton Becket designed fountain. Murrill sees this particular installation as the focal point of the exhibition.

**Photo Credits:**

**3a. *Tiger 1* Courtesy LA Louver, Venice CA**

**3b. *Tiger 2* Courtesy LA Louver, Venice CA**

**3c. *Tiger 3* Courtesy LA Louver, Venice CA**

**4a/b. Location: Between Olympic Blvd and Galaxy Way at Fox Plaza**

4a. Reclining Panther, 2012

Bronze

Edition 2 of 3

29 x 99 x 43 inches

4b. Standing Panther, 2011

Bronze

Edition 2 of 3

44 x 84 x 45 inches

Murrill sculpted **Standing Panther and Reclining Panther** simultaneously as a pair. These two forms are Murrill's most recent work in the exhibition. The two pieces stand elegantly on their own. However, it is the relationship the two pieces create when placed together that intrigues Murrill. This specific Century City placement was decided upon due to the relative intimacy of the particular space, it is one of the smaller medians, in a somewhat enclosed area of along the avenue.

**Photo Credits:**

**4a. *Reclining Panther (Foreground) and Standing Panther* - Courtesy LA Louver, Venice, CA**

**4b. *Standing Panther* - Courtesy LA Louver, Venice, CA**

**5a/b/c Location: Between Galaxy Way and Empyrean Way at the InterContinental Los Angeles Century City**

5a. *Eight Deer* (Listed from North to South)

5b. *Deer 3, 2007* (Foreground), *Deer 5 and Deer 6* (Background)

5c. *Deer 9, 2012* (Foreground), *Deer 7* (Background)

Deer 4, 2002

Bronze

Edition 5 of 6

53 x 50 x 22 inches

Deer 1, 2000

Bronze

Edition 3 of 6

55 x 52 x 17 inches

Deer 2, 2000

Bronze

Edition 3 of 5

49.5 x 57 x 15 inches

Deer 3 (Stag), 2007

Bronze

Edition AC1

75 x 66 x 35 inches

Deer 5, 2012

Bronze

Edition 6 of 6

48 x 58 x 16 inches

Deer 6, 2012

Bronze

Edition 6 of 6

47 x 58 x 15 inches

Deer 9, 2012

Bronze

Edition 2 of 6

49 x 49 x 23 inches

Deer 7, 2002

Bronze

Edition 2 of 6

41 x 52 x 16 inches

The first seven pieces of Murrill's *Deer* series were initially commissioned by the city of Obihiro, Japan in the year 2000. Modeled after the *Ezo Shika* deer indigenous to the Northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, Murrill installed two groupings in the city center. Murrill set out to develop a cohesive work that would represent the fauna, which surrounds the growing city, returning to where they once roamed.

In a similar manner, Murrill's current Century City installation alludes to this return. Her proficiency in abstracting the forms just enough for her *Deer* to become silhouettes in the day, and merely shadows in the evening, is a strength that propels the sculptures into mystery.

**Photo Credits:**

**7a. *Deer 3*, 2007 (Foreground), *Deer 5* and *Deer 6* (Background) - Courtesy LA Louver, Venice CA**

**7b. *Deer 1* (Foreground) *Deer 5*, *Deer 6*, *Deer 3*, *Deer 9*, *Deer 7* (L to R, Background) - Courtesy LA Louver, Venice CA**

**7c. *Deer 9* and *Deer 7* - Courtesy LA Louver, Venice CA**