

"THE CANDCHIN-ROCK"

COMMISSIONED FOR THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN BEIJING, CHINA

The inspiration for this sculpture came from the geological history of our earth itself. The granite stone from the quarry in Beebe Quebec expressing symbolically changing relationships. The rock was split by focusing on the space created between the two entities: Asia and the Americas ("the gap"); that space hints at the historical, cultural and political, or the physical Pacific Ocean itself, separating Canada and China.

A single, solid granite block from the Canadian shield unevenly split into two parts, which do touch each other on a hinge-like point. A pivot. Creating the impression that the rock can or might close the gap - which is dark and cave like in the daytime but is brightly, invitingly and ceremoniously lit at night. Then the sculptural balance, radically shifts. It becomes a new, different sculpture.

Note: I was told that the Chinese often remind us that they have 7000 years of past history. Truly, Canada has a short past comparatively. However, we have 7000 years of future history to make. Not to have a very long past can be another kind of asset and a liberating freedom.

Note: A knowledgeable person at External Affairs was telling me:

"The Chinese people never spell out things, they only hints, they speak by hints. Maybe we could install a dimmer on the lights placed at the floor of the gap in the Candchin-Rock. We could use the dimmer as a way of hinting" signaling bright relationship with stronger lighting. To which I replied "Wonderful! You are making CANDCHIN-ROCK a working sculpture".

Hoping, the light will shine brightly forever after.

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