

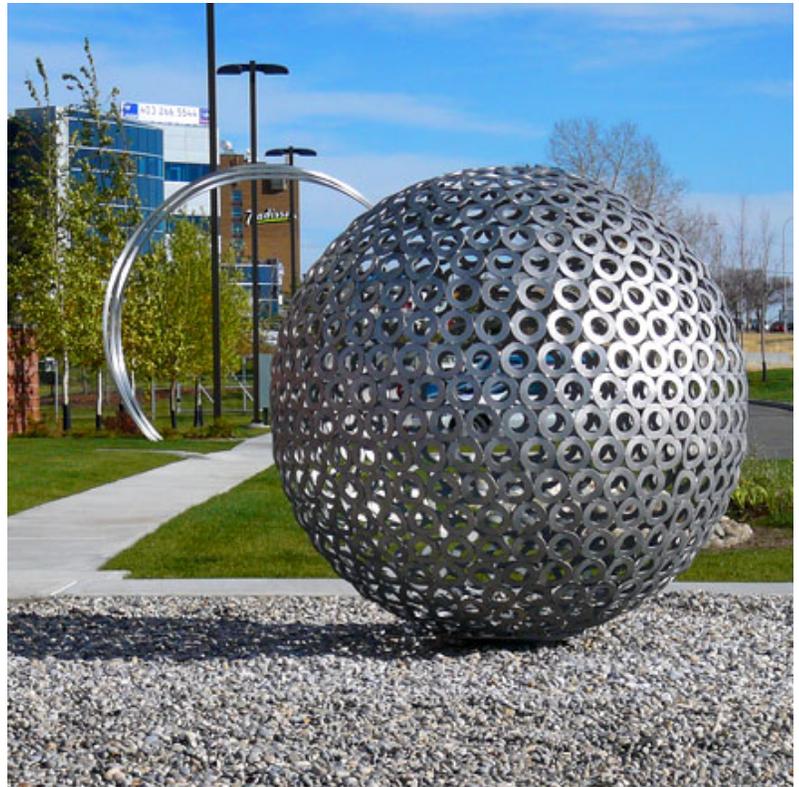
## ***Bearing***

**Artist - Douglas Senft**

*bearing* is a two-part sculpture located at Calgary Fire Department Apparatus Repair & Maintenance Facility (1755 18th Ave. N.E.) in Calgary, Alberta.

The goal of this project was to symbolically represent the departmental goals for the Calgary Fire Department (CFD), while reflecting the history and culture which makes CFD unique. "Reflect the past, live the present, reach for the future."

The concept was the result of many conversations with City and Fire personnel about the facility and the connection it has to firefighters. In his own words, Senft explains that, "Conceptually, the work evolved from consideration given to the role played by people who work at the facility. In their support capacity, they are the less visible personnel of a very public service ... I wanted to create an abstract work derived from this sense of support and connection that would [also] be visually memorable."



Senft says the imagery for the work was derived from fasteners, washers and bearings - all unseen elements within any system containing moving parts - representing the supportive yet critical function of personnel who occupy the building.

### **The Artist**

Based in Vancouver, B.C., the Fire Apparatus Repair Facility represents Douglas Senft's first public art venture in Calgary.

Structure, form and pattern within the natural environment inform Senft's work. In considering site-specific work, he looks to create sculpture that is based on a sense of place as well as a response to the physical scale of the site. This allows for an engagement with the site that involves the viewer through entry and passage. His approach to this practice is very hands-on from design right through to fabrication and installation.

### **The Project**

- The artist was chosen through an open call process, where all interested artists are invited to submit an application for the project.
- The artist budget was \$221,000.
- The public art project was a collaborative initiative by the Public Art Program and City of Calgary Fire Department, the business unit sponsor.
- *bearing* was completed in September 2009.