



City of Edmonds Media Release

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To: Media

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HEKINAN GIFT OF CLOISONNÉ ART

Edmonds, WA – This year celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Sister City relationship established in 1988 between Hekinan, Japan and the City of Edmonds. In April 2018 Mayor Earling led a delegation of local residents to Hekinan to celebrate the relationship as well as the 70th anniversary of the founding of the City of Hekinan. At that time Mayor Earling and Mary Negita exchanged gifts at a reception in Hekinan, with Edmonds receiving a framed cloisonné image of Mount Fuji from Hekinan. In late October Mayor Negita and a delegation of Hekinan residents will travel to Edmonds for a week.

The exchange of artwork has been a key element in the Sister City relationship. In 1990 the City of Edmonds received a collection of artwork from Hekinan to commemorate Edmonds' centennial. At that time 19 pieces of art were brought to Edmonds and became part of the City of Edmonds Arts Commission (EAC) Public Art Collection. A collection of art by Edmonds' artists was sent to Hekinan. Since that time the two cities have continued to exchange artwork and the City of Edmonds Hekinan Art Collection now includes over 40 pieces. The Arts and Culture Manager for the City, Frances Chapin, says "the Arts Commission is delighted to add this iconic Japanese artwork to the City's collection", noting that it is unique as Edmonds' first cloisonné Public Art piece.

Examples of cloisonné from various parts of the world date back to the 12th century, but the specific Japanese technique for creating very fine cloisonné was first developed in the 1800's by Tsunekichi Kaji who was born in Nagoya, close to Hekinan. Cloisonné is decorative enamel work on a metal base with thin silver wire separating the design areas of the enamel. Once the piece is fused, the finishing requires extensive grinding and polishing to achieve the high lustre for which the Japanese work is renowned.

A selection of artwork and crafts from Hekinan, including the newest gift, is displayed on the third floor of City Hall in the administrative area which is open to the public during building hours, 8 – 4:30 pm on weekdays. For more information on the Sister City program and ways to be involved see the City website,

<http://www.edmondswa.gov/sister-city-commission.html>

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