

UNVEILING OF THE LARGEST BRONZE SCULPTURE OF CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY IN THE WORLD:

# “The Union of the World: Monument to World Peace”

In Greek mythology, Hercules is a hero with invincible physical strength. Can the legend also deliver a powerful message of unity and peace in the 21st Century? Renowned Spanish sculptor and painter Gints Serran believes he can. The proof is one of his most epic creations yet – an impressive sculpture of Hercules pushing two columns together named The Union of the World: Monument to World Peace.

BY SUE ARROWSMITH

Towering 26 feet in height and weighing nearly nine tons – or 18,000 pounds – Serran believes his work of art is among the largest bronze sculptures of classical mythology in the world today. He thinks it can help people toward the colossal mission of bringing world peace.

“Today, the world is divided in so many ways, by so many wars,” Serran said. “We’re bringing to Miami this symbol to teach new generations to grow up thinking the most important thing is to live in a peaceful world.”

Serran will donate the monument to the Mary Brickell Village neighborhood and unveil the sculpture during a special ceremony at 6 p.m. Saturday.

The sculpture, which was shipped from Serran’s studio in China, will be permanently installed at the center of a “Peace Garden” created near Perricone’s Marketplace and Cafe at the Village.

Bust sculptures of the most noted peacemakers of the world will be placed throughout the garden as well.

“Miami is where [the sculpture] should be,” Serran said. “Miami is the melting pot of the world. It has everything.”

Supporting his mission is real estate developer, philanthropist and the former First Lady of New York State E-

vangeline Gouletas, whose most recent luxury condominium project, SkyPalace at Mary Brickell Village, is underway.

Gouletas is sponsoring the unveiling ceremony in grand style with global dignitaries and celebrities as guests, such as Burn Notice’s Gabrielle Anwar. Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado is scheduled to present Serran with a key to Miami.

It was Gouletas’ vision that brought Serran to Miami. Before building her real estate empire, Gouletas was an educator and has been active in promoting peace and improving conditions for people across the world as an ambassador for The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for the last 15 years.

She found a kindred spirit in Serran. The self-proclaimed “chameleon” spent several years living among indigenous populations, including Native Americans and rural fisherman in Japan as well as communities in Tahiti, China, the Philippines, India, Indonesia and Australia.

“I was searching for an artist for a long time. When I found Mr. Serran, his sculptures had the right tie between myth and peace. I thought, this is the person I should bring,” said Gouletas, who is Greek.

Serran’s first exhibition was at the prestigious Guggenheim Museum of New York. Since then, his works have been presented in more than 150 exhibitions in 15 countries and has received awards and recognitions. Most recently, he has been endorsed in Spain for the Gold Medal for the Arts.

More than 100 of his artworks and sculptures are currently on display at Mary Brickell Village as part of the Gints Serran Miami Art Exhibit.

This year, he plans to create a sculpture of Cuba’s national hero, Jose Marti.

Serran said he is often inspired to paint his surroundings – Spanish roof tiles in earthy tones, a charging bull on a



black canvas, a dingy sailboat poised on azure waves.

After many years living abroad, Serran returned to his birthplace of Ceuta, Spain. A lover of many cultures who earned masters and doctorate degrees in anthropology early in his career, Serran immersed himself in studying mythology for five years. He then began casting the myths in bronze.

“Ceuta is considered the end of the

world. I wanted to do something for my country,” he said.

The first of his two grand sculptures, The Two Pillars of Hercules, was completed last year and dedicated to his hometown located on the North African side of the Strait of Gibraltar. In this sculpture, Serran placed the hero in classic pose, pulling the columns apart.

For The Union of the World sculpture, it was important for Serran to show Hercules uniting the columns instead of separating them to send a message of solidarity to the world. “It took two and a half months to build this sculpture and my entire life to get to this point,” Serran said.

SOURCE: The Miami Herald



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