

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lyman Allyn Art Museum

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### **LYMAN ALLYN ART MUSEUM ANNOUNCES RELOCATION OF ICONIC SCULPTURE** **"STAR AND SEA"**

**NEW LONDON** – The Lyman Allyn Art Museum announces the relocation of *Star and Sea*, a prominent sculpture by artist Allyson Holtz, to the roundabout near General Dynamics on Pequot Avenue in New London. The move coincides with ongoing construction for the new Lyman Allyn Park.

Weighing eight tons and made of Corten steel, *Star and Sea* has stood on the Museum's front lawn since 2008, welcoming visitors with its bold, maritime-inspired presence. Originally commissioned in 1981 by the Thames Valley Steel Company and the Carr family as a gift to the City of New London, the sculpture was fabricated at Thames Valley Steel in New London using HY-80 steel (commonly used in submarine construction) and was first installed downtown, northeast of the Water Street Garage.

Artist Allyson Holtz described the piece upon its original installation: "*Star and Sea* is a site-specific work that I created to reflect the history and character of New London. The location of the sculpture – overlooking the Thames River and beyond it, Long Island Sound – points to the significance of water, the sea, submarines, sailing ships – generally, the things I love most about the City and southeastern Connecticut shore."

The Museum is proud to see this beloved work find a new home, closer to the sea, where it will continue to celebrate New London's rich cultural and nautical heritage.

Holtz, a Connecticut native, is a founding member of Hygienic Art and served as its President from 1979 to 1990. She is a graduate of Electric Boat's Trades Academies (formerly Ambit Welding School) and spent two years as structural welder at EB where she worked on the USS Georgia. This compelling experience led her to earning a master's degree (concentration in the History of American Submarine Technology) at Wesleyan University.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Dawson by email at [dawson@lymanallyn.org](mailto:dawson@lymanallyn.org).



Allyson Holtz, *Star and Sea*, 1981, Corten steel, 25' x 12' x 12' weighing 8 tons. Now installed in the Pequot Avenue Roundabout.

## **About Lyman Allyn Art Museum**

Lyman Allyn Art Museum welcomes visitors from New London, southeastern Connecticut and all over the world. Established in 1926 with a gift from Harriet Allyn in memory of her seafaring father, the Museum opened the doors of its beautiful neoclassical building surrounded by 12 acres of green space in 1932. Today it presents several changing exhibitions each year and houses a fascinating collection of over 19,000 objects from ancient times to the present, including art from Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe, with particularly strong collections of American paintings, decorative arts and Victorian toys and doll houses.

The museum is located at 625 Williams Street, New London, Connecticut, exit 83 off I-95. It is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 - 5 p.m., and closed on Mondays and major holidays. For more information call 860.443.2545, ext. 2129 or visit [www.lymanallyn.org](http://www.lymanallyn.org).