

## Testimony from a summer intern. Letter from Stu Ryan

"I was so fortunate to be chosen as an intern for the 2014 Saint John Sculpture Symposium. This six week intensive internship gave me the unique opportunity to live and work alongside eight world renowned sculptors, and study the properties of granite. As a student currently enrolled in a post-secondary BFA program, I was able to use the internship as a co-op work term placement with the university I attend.

The program, which prides itself on supporting artists at both the international and local levels, is an incredible initiative that has provided me with a solid foundation for stone carving. The program offered interns of all ages the invaluable experience of seeing the extraction of the stone from the quarry, and then its transformation into the artist's vision, for their designated community partner. Community is at the heart of the symposium, and that's what makes it special. Volunteers worked tirelessly cooking us delicious meals daily, and spoiled us with special events. The symposium has established strong relationships with towns all over New Brunswick, and has opened up dialogue about art within these rural communities.

Whether a student or not, what a phenomenal experience it is to learn alongside eight talented stone experts. Each artist offered unique and valuable insight into their world of stone. By observing and interacting with these styles and techniques, you end up finding your own rhythm somewhere in the middle. The mentorship between artists and interns consists of an education you simply cannot buy. By spending every day working together on site, and each evening relaxing and enjoying each others company, we soon became like a quirky family all from different walks of life meeting here and creating this wonderful experience. When the symposium comes to an end, and you've packed your suitcase and moved on, you realize that Sculpture Saint John becomes quite difficult to express such a magical and romantic experience, but it literally rocks. Thank you to all of the volunteers, sponsors, communities, coordinators and the entire Sculpture Saint John team. I am incredibly humbled and grateful for your support. "

Stu Ryan

Emily Carr University of Art and Design Potential Graduate December 2015

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