

## Frederick Hart Transcendence and Renewal

a retrospective  
on exhibit  
12 August  
through  
1 November  
2000

Washington  
National  
Cathedral

*self-guided tour  
booklet*

### Washington National Cathedral Sculpture by Frederick Hart

*Begin your tour of Frederick Hart's sculpture by leaving the Cathedral by the west doors. Once in the paved courtyard area, turn around and look back at the façade. Walk to an area in front of the north set of doors, or portal, on your left.*

#### 1 The Creation of Day, 1974-1984

The west façade introduces the iconography of the Cathedral with the theme of creation. Over the entrance to the northwest doors, Hart's *The Creation of Day* begins to explore the theme of the west façade with a depiction of the "visible universe." This tympanum represents the moment when God separated the light from the darkness, as described in Genesis. Hart spoke of the three tympana works not as nouns but as verbs, "polarities of creation."

#### 2 St. Peter, 1977-1984

The towers that dominate the west façade are dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, for whom the Cathedral is officially dedicated. The trumeau statue between the doors of the north portal is the statue of St. Peter, shown with a fishnet over his shoulder, perhaps at the moment when Jesus called Peter and his brother Andrew to follow him as "fishers of men." Peter is the only figure on the west façade whose eyes are open. Vincent Palumbo, who considers it his masterwork, carved the limestone statue from Hart's plaster model.

#### 3 Pan Gargoyle, 1974-1976

Located above the north portal is a gargoyle of a curly-haired faun, the Greek god Pan, holding pipes. This gargoyle was given in thanksgiving for the many musical programs offered by the Cathedral. *Move to the center portal.*

#### 4 Ex Nihilo, 1974-1982

The first plaster model Hart proposed to the Cathedral's Building Committee for this central tympanum sculpture was rejected. The second proposal was accepted, and work began in 1975; this was the last entrance carving to be completed. Here we see the half-formed figures of eight men and women who appear to be struggling out of the void—the title of the work translates to "out of nothingness"—depicting the act of God's creation of humankind. Master carver Vincent Palumbo, with the help of carvers Walter Arnold, Gerald Lynch and Patrick Plunkett, took two years to translate Hart's model into stone.

#### 5 Adam, 1975-1978

Beneath the center tympanum stands a statue of Adam, the first human, at the moment he comes to life. His face is lifted toward heaven as if he is still in communion with his creator. This was the first of the trumeau statues on the west façade to be put in place. It was the last work master carver Roger Morigi created for the Cathedral. *Move to the south portal, on your right.*

#### 6 The Creation of Night, 1974-1983

Over the entrance to the southwest doors is the tympanum carving of *The Creation of Night*, representing the "invisible universe." The Cathedral's Building Committee originally accepted Hart's ideas for the north and south tympana but suggested that he give more thought to the details of the sculpture. In time, *The Creation of Night* was carved in place from Hart's model into the bare stone above the doorway.

#### 7 St. Paul, 1979-1983

St. Paul is the south portal trumeau figure under *The Creation of Night* tympanum. His eyes are closed as a great light temporarily blinds him at the time of his conversion on the road to Damascus (hence, he is "in the darkness" symbolized by the tympanum carving). In his left hand Paul carries a sword, his usual attribute in art. The sword symbolizes the weapon thought to have been used when he was beheaded in Rome many years later. Master carver Vincent Palumbo took more than a year to carve this sensitive sculpture into stone.

#### 8 Elephant Gargoyle, 1975-1976

Located on the first floor level of the southwest tower's turret, this whimsical Hart gargoyle commemorates a former manager of the Cathedral bookstore. It shows an elephant with large tusks, balancing a book on its head with its trunk. *Now walk up the steps and in the doors of the south portal, into the southwest, or Churchill Porch.*

#### 9 Four Label Mold Terminations, 1973-1974

This entire porch area is dedicated to the memory of Winston Churchill, a British statesman and a beloved "honorary American." Each of the symbols sculpted by Hart refers to an important aspect of Sir Winston Churchill's life.

- A. The Churchill-Marlborough Coat-of-Arms
- B. The Order of the Garter
- C. The Nobel Prize for Literature
- D. The Mace of the House of Commons

*Walk through the doors of the Churchill Porch and into the adjoining south vestibule of the nave. Look up to the low ceiling area.*

#### 10 Boss: Anglo-American Friendship, 1974

On the southwest porch, the coats-of-arms of both the United States and Great Britain are depicted on this vestibule boss from which the light fixture descends.

#### 11 Half-Boss: Lowenberg Thanksgiving, 1974

Found on the east side of the same ceiling, the carving of five choirboys singing with sheet music is dedicated to a donor who attended the College of Church Musicians, which was located at the Cathedral at that time. The donor was particularly grateful to the college's great teachers Drs. Leo Sowerby and Paul Callaway, with whom he studied.

#### 12 Boss: Saint Andrew's Society, 1973

This boss, which surrounds the light fixture of the vestibule, is decorated with thistles, oaks, and the arms of the St. Andrews Society. Since 1959, the Society has held an annual service, the Kirkin' of the Tartan, at the Cathedral.

#### 13 Boss: Dogwood Leaves, Flowers and Branches, 1972

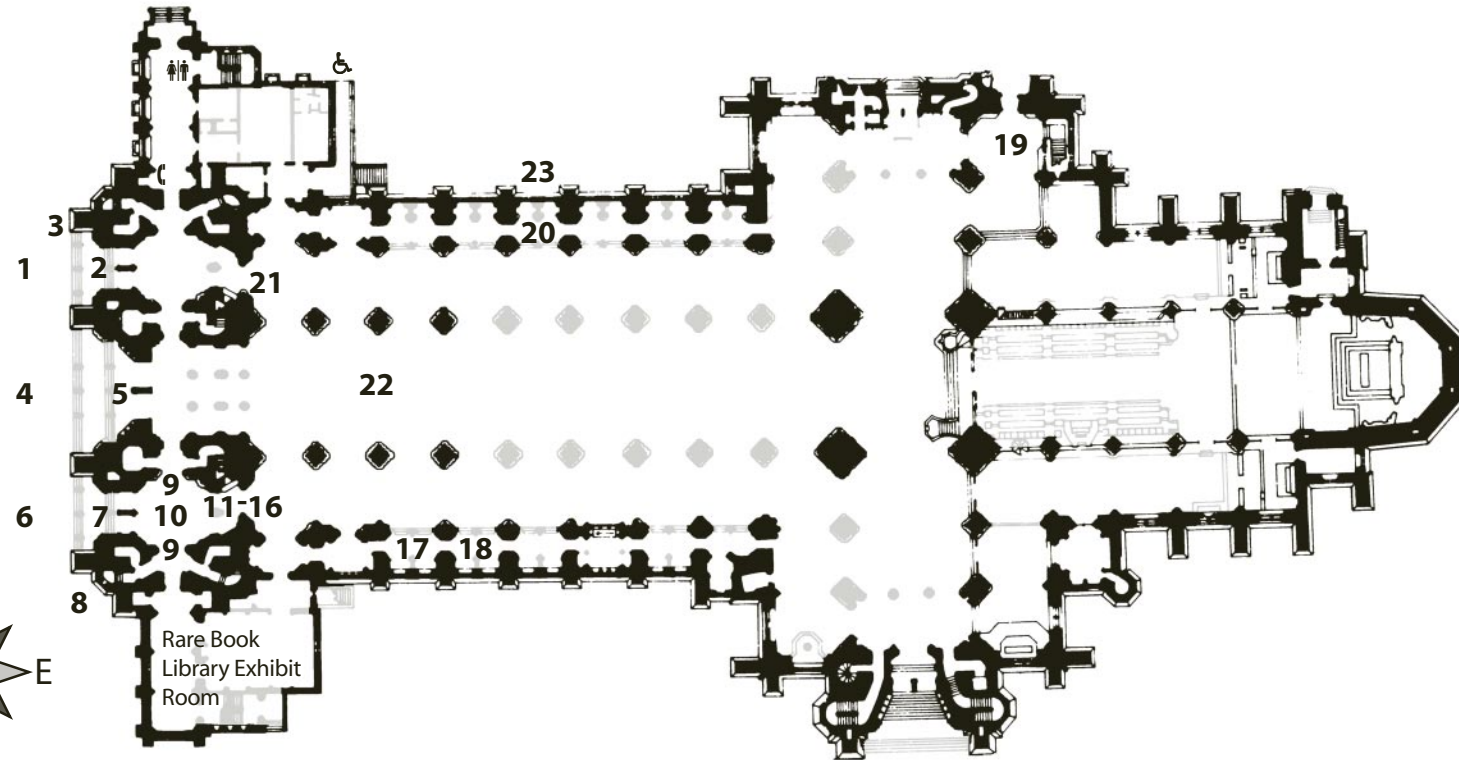
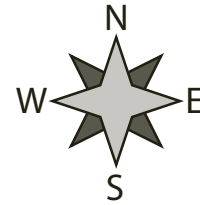
This boss is found in the same vestibule area. The donors requested that the dean of the Cathedral at that time, Francis Sayre, choose the theme. The delicate undercutting of the stone is considered to be extremely fine.

#### 14 Boss: The Lockwood Marriage, 1973-1975

This carved stone at the intersection of the vaulting ribs has an intricately woven pattern of peonies, goldenrod, interlocking wedding bands and a musical scroll to commemorate forty-four years of marriage.

## Washington National Cathedral Nave Level and Exterior

- 1, 4, 6** located directly above portals
- 3** located above and to north of north portal
- 8** located on south-west side of building
- 9** located on both north and south arches
- 16** located above balcony
- 23** the western gargoyle in the top pair



- 15** **Boss: John D. Lockwood Memorial, 1973-1975**  
This boss combines English roses and a French fleur-de-lis to suggest Mr. Lockwood's ancestry, while a roll of film and a saxophone refer to his interests.
- 16** **Boss: Memorial to Hibbard G. James, 1974-1976**  
*Step out of the vestibule, turn around and look back at the ceiling of the balcony over the vestibule. As references to Mr. James's interests, Hart sculpted a comedy mask, a lyre for light opera, the initials "G.S." for Gilbert and Sullivan and "Veritas" for Harvard University.*

*Turn and, being careful of the steps, enter the covered aisle. Stop in Folger Bay, the first bay after the steps, and look toward the high altar and examine the statue over the east arch.*

- 17** **Niche Statue: Erasmus, 1968**  
This was the first of Hart's sculpted work to be commissioned by the Cathedral. It shows the humanist scholar and religious reformer Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466-1536) writing in a book with a quill pen, a reference to his historical writings and translations. Erasmus was known as the most renowned scholar of his day. The corbel, the carving below the figure, shows the coats-of-arms of the Tudors and the Hapsburgs, two royal families whom Erasmus tutored. Also seen are a headless image of the Roman god Terminus, the god of boundaries, and a lamp of learning resting on palm branches, alluding to his desire for peace within the church. *Walk to the next bay east.*

- 18** **Glover Bay Boss: 1971**  
The 1891 decision to build a cathedral in the Capital City was made in the Lafayette Square home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Glover. This boss in the Warren Bay shows flowers and foliage and was a memorial to the Glovers.  
*Walk east, and to the north transept area in front of the entrance to the parclose stairs and Holy Spirit Chapel. Look up to the bosses in the ceiling of this area.*

- 19** **Six bosses: The Palmer Bosses: Forms of Prayer to be Used in Families, 1970-1976**  
These beautiful, though difficult to see, bosses were given by a longtime Cathedral usher and his wife and illustrate prayers from the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer* of the Episcopal Church
  - A. *For Faithfulness in the Use of the World's Goods* shows two bricklayers at work
  - B. *For a Birthday* illustrates a young mother and father holding a baby in their encircling arms
  - C. *For Joy in God's Creation* shows several children clasping their hands in joy as they view the world of beauty around them
  - D. *For Guidance* depicts a young man with folded hands, bowed head and closed eyes before a single candle
  - E. *For Those We Love* is symbolized by a young woman embracing her elderly parents
  - F. *For Trustfulness* depicts a child with its mother

*Turn and enter the covered aisle on the north side. Stop in the fourth or Bethlehem Bay and face the west nave doors. Look up over the west arch at the niche sculpture.*

- 20** **Niche Statue: Kagawa, 1971-1978**  
Toyohiko Kagawa (1888-1960) was a Japanese writer, social reformer, champion of the poor, protagonist of peace and gifted evangelist. Born into a wealthy Buddhist family, he converted to Christianity and studied at Kobe Presbyterian Theological College, Japan and Princeton University, New Jersey.

*Leave the covered aisle and walk to the north vestibule area, which corresponds to the south vestibule, and look up at the ceiling.*

- 21** **Boss: The Girls Friendly Society, 1974**  
This boss is dedicated as a memorial to twelve members of this Washington Episcopal Diocesan organization for young women. Leaves of the chestnut oak rise up from the bottom, where a light fixture is suspended. On the east side, a shield bears the initials "GFS, USA," surrounded by the Society's motto, "Bear ye one another's burdens."

*Walk to the area in the nave directly in front of the center west doors. Without binoculars these next carvings will be difficult to see.*

- 22** **Five Bosses: Commemorating the Nicene and Apostle's Creeds, 1975**  
Look up at the ceiling of the first two bays of the center aisle of the nave. The five Annis Wilbraham Ewell bosses are strictly decorative:
  - A. Tulips
  - B. Flowers
  - C. Vine leaves and flowers
  - D. Tulips
  - E. Leaves and flowers

- 23** **Owl Gargoyle, 1969**  
Be sure to see this gargoyle on the north side of the Cathedral. Located in the third bay from the ramp, this owl wearing a mortarboard hat and holding a diploma is the western gargoyle in the upper pair.

*We hope you have enjoyed seeing Hart's beautiful work at Washington National Cathedral.*



Washington National Cathedral  
Massachusetts & Wisconsin Aves, N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20016-5098  
(202) 537-2223  
tours@cathedral.org  
www.cathedral.org/cathedral