

Bronze Seal “Fifi”

By Peter Bishop Allen



Fifi, carved by Peter Bishop Allen (1943-2004), is a life-sized bronze harbor seal sculpture standing 3 ft. by 4 ft. Peter Allen’s seal became famous in the mid-1980s when former San Francisco Mayor Dianne Feinstein acquired a small hand-carved redwood seal after she purchased a home in Stinson Beach. During her tenure as mayor, Feinstein commissioned seals as official gifts in both redwood and bronze for political leaders including Philippines President Corazon Aquino, Chinese Premier Deng Xiaoping, the mayor of Cork, Ireland, and the mayor of Hong Kong.

Jeffery Morshead, former owner/director of Frank Howard Allen Real Estate, a company founded by Allen’s grandfather in Marin County in 1910, is donating the sculpture to the County of Marin at no cost to the County.

Peter Allen (1943-2004) is remembered for his life-like iconic carvings of sea mammals including seals, otters, whales, and great white sharks. Peter was a well-known Marin County woodcarver. His marine mammal sculptures created from old, salvaged redwood railroad ties are a legacy that will live on forever in many Marin County homes and public galleries.