

ARMINE NUTTING GOSLING STATUE PROJECT NEWS

APRIL 2024



WE ARE GOING TO
#RAISEHER UP!

AN EXTRAORDINARILY
ORDINARY WOMAN

CASTING IN BRONZE -
AN INTERVIEW WITH
ARTIST SHEILA
COULTAS

Did you know that there are only **three** statues of named women in Newfoundland and Labrador? Shawnadithit in Boyd's Cove; Amelia Earhart in Harbour Grace; and the soon-to-be erected statue of Demasduit and her family in Botwood.

There are **none** in our capital city of St. John's - but now, PerSIStence Theatre is helping to change that!

Through a realized design by artist Sheila Coultas, women's suffrage leader **Armine Nutting Gosling** will be commemorated life-sized, in bronze, in Bannerman Park, St. John's as the **first** statue of a named woman in the capital's history. It will also be the first public statue in the province designed by a woman!

The statue is being cast over the winter and spring of 2024. Site preparation is scheduled for the summer of 2024 with the official unveiling scheduled for early April 2025 - to coincide with the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in 1925.

Our hope is that sharing this "her story" of a woman of distinction will inspire many others to take bold steps in forging their own life trajectory. We believe that weaving the significant contributions of women back into our historical narrative is a critical step towards equality and balanced representation.

AN EXTRAORDINARY ORDINARY WOMAN

A leader with wide sympathies, **Armine Nutting Gosling** (1861-1942) campaigned for votes for women in Newfoundland, achieving first, in the city of St. John's in 1921, a limited franchise for those owning or leasing .

Describing this as a "stepping stone to greater things" she then led the island-wide Women's Franchise League to victory in 1925. Labradorians first voted in 1946.

Nutting Gosling also provided leadership to the Women's Patriotic Association in World War One, child welfare, maternal health and animal rights movements, and reforms in girl's education and women's sports.

"No class, or race, or sex can have its interests attended to...unless it is represented by direct suffrage." – Armine Nutting Gosling



"Armine Nutting Gosling led a transformative political and social movement - votes for women - confronting the immense prejudices of her time." - Dr. Margot Duley

Armine Nutting Gosling was born in Waterloo, Que., into a family with little financial support and an alcoholic father.

"It was her mother who held the family together," says well-known historian **Dr. Margot Duley**, who also serves as the Armine Nutting Gosling statue project chair.

Nutting Gosling came to Newfoundland in 1882 as a teacher. Here, she met and married Gilbert Gosling, with whom she had six children, two of whom died in infancy.

"Armine herself had a 'click' moment when she was in St. John's," Duley shares. Raising money to rebuild the Anglican Cathedral.

"She realized that ... she and other women had raised a tremendous amount of money and now they had no voice in the say of how it was going to be expended - not only in churches but civic organizations and government as well," Duley continues.

Duley says Nutting Gosling's vision wasn't simply to vote. It was to be an instrument of social change, including better wages, wider opportunities and legal reforms.

Nutting Gosling and other members of the **Women's Franchise League** galvanized 20,000 people from all over the island to sign a petition for women's right to vote.

It was the largest petition campaign in Newfoundland's history at the time, when women's work was not recognized.

Duley said that this statue will be a reminder of that movement.

"We want people to reflect on that. Social justice isn't won easily," she says.

"This is an important moment in the public history of St. John's and of the whole province," Duley continues.

"Statues affirm what we value and who we are."

"Armine Nutting Gosling led a transformative political and social movement – votes for women – confronting the immense prejudices of her time."

"This statue honours her neglected role and helps to rebalance how we understand our collective history."

"She was an extraordinarily ordinary woman," Duley concludes. "Ordinary people really can effect change."



At the provincial funding announcement April 2023.

(L-R: Elder Emma Reelis; project chair Dr. Margot Duley; Minister Pam Parsons; artist Sheila Coultas; PerSISTence chair Dr. Deatra Walsh; Minister John Abbott, Minister Bernard Davis; Mayor Danny Breen)

CASTING IN BRONZE

An Interview with Sheila Coultas

Recently, we sat down with artist **Sheila Coultas** at the Newfoundland Bronze Foundry to get an update on the progress of the statue, and learn about the process.

Coultas is an artist and welder who started her journey as a textile artist.

"I am passionate about work that gets me dirty and allows me to create," says Coultas. "I love to explore new mediums and enjoy the creative energy I experience in learning how to do something new."

Something new indeed! In 2021, PerSIStence approached Coultas to become the first woman to design a piece of public sculpture in the province and the first statue of a named woman in the City of St. John's - the Armine Nutting Gosling statue.

In 2022, at the project launch, we unveiled Coultas' maquette of the statue - essentially a smaller version, carved in clay, that served as a design guide for what the full statue in bronze might look like.

"We very much wanted this statue of Armine to be her "in action", so to speak," says PerSIStence producing artistic director **Jenn Deon**.

"We love that Sheila's design has Armine reaching out to ask you to sign her petition for votes for women!" continues Deon.



Sheila Coultas with the maquette

For Coultas, designing a figure sculpture involved a combination of historical research and the careful study of anatomy.

"The process was very enlightening," says Coultas. "And it's a lot of fun to figure out the musculature and shape."

Now that the design is finalized, Coultas has begun the process to make the full size statue of Armine that will be erected in Bannerman Park in early April 2025 - the 100th anniversary of women achieving the right to vote throughout Newfoundland.

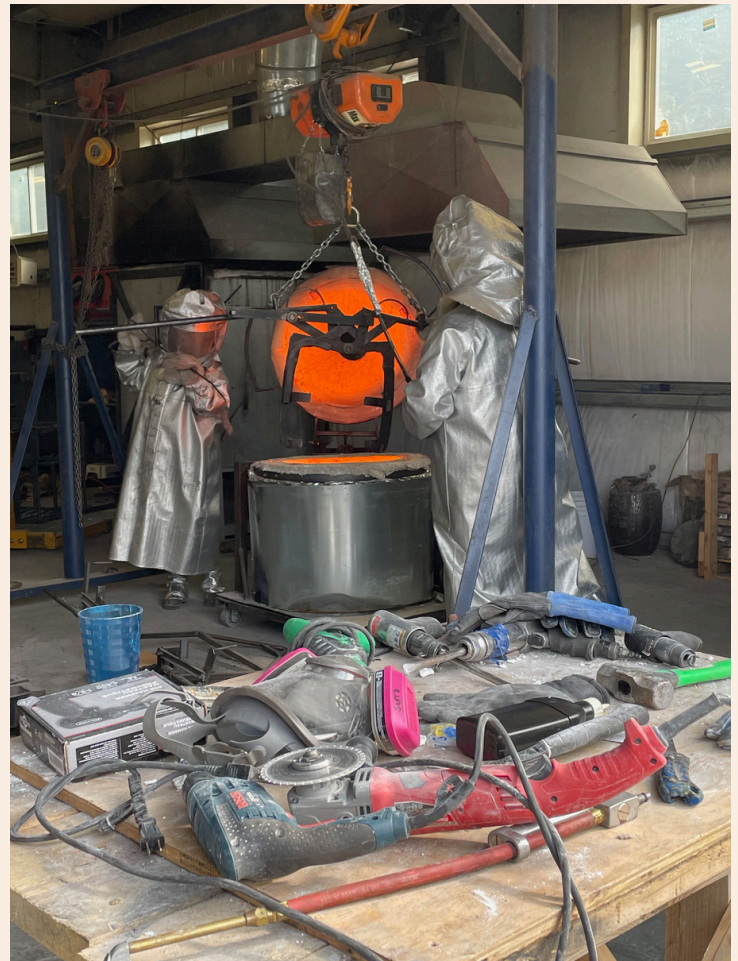
THE PROCESS OF CASTING IN BRONZE

- The statue is resculpted in **clay** in life size form.
- From this, the clay is partitioned with metal shims and drenched in **silicone** to capture all of the intricate details from the clay.
- The silicone mold is overlaid with an outer mold of **fiberglass and resin**.
- Then the statue is cast again, this time in **wax**. This wax copy is cut into pieces in order to create a plumbing system called 'screwing' that creates a channel for the bronze to flow through.
- The next step is to dip the wax pieces in **ceramic** to create a shell, then the wax is burnt out of the ceramic creating empty space for the statue to take its final shape.
- Finally comes the **bronze**, which is melted and poured into the ceramic shell. Once the bronze cools, then the statue can be welded together.

For Coultas, creating this statue has a special personal connection, as she grew up in a home where Armine Nutting Gosling was a hero.

Coultas' mother is **Frances Ennis**, a well-known feminist in our community who has walked a path very similar to Armine. Ennis has also dedicated her life to women's rights, and has worked tirelessly with related causes such as adult literacy and anti-violence against women, work for which Ennis has been awarded the Governor General's Award in honour of the Person's Case, and the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador.

"This project feels like a culmination of both my mother's work and my own," says Coultas. "It shows how these kind of things have a tendency to knit themselves together."



Sheila Coultas at work in the Newfoundland Bronze Foundry

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

(\$25-\$999)

Dedications may be viewed online

Ellen Alcock
Margaret Allen
Maureen Anonsen
Thomas Baird
John Barrington
Kate Barrington
Olivia Barrington
Shevone Barrington
Sharon Batstone
Terry Bishop Sterling
Bobbie Boland
Patricia Boland-Baker
Mary Boulos
Diane Brenton
GillianBrown
Jane Brown
Jenn Brown
Roberta Buchanan
Jim Butler
Bonne Campbell
Bonnie Campbell
Susan Chalker Brown
Ane Christensen
Hickman Claire
Courtney Clarke
Julia Clarke
Sandra Clarke
Denise
Joan Coady
Maggie Coady
Stacey Coady
Corina Coady-Walsh
Lisa Cobb
Aimee Coles
VictoriaCollins
Deborah Coombs
Elizabeth Creelman
Linda Cullum
Carol Daley
Bernard Davis
Doreen Dawe
Judith Dearlove
Erin Delaney
Jenn Deon & Dave Walsh
Mary Devine
Sheila Devine
Geraldine Downey
Gerri Downey
Cathy Duke
Pauline Duke
Maxine Dunne
Carolyn Earle
Yvonne Emerson
Lela Evans

Anne Fagan
Charmaine Flynn
Judy Foote
Brenda Gagnon
Krista Galbraith
RosilandGill
Gloria Haley
Joyce Hancock
Kathy Hickman
Kathy Hickman
Lois Hoegg
Judy Hudson
Melva Humber
Danika Hyatt
Lauren Hyatt
Connie Ings
Pam Janes-Young
Jennifer Jeans
Joan Peck
Sylina Jones
Deidre Keating
Sheila Keats
Susan Khaladkar
Joelene King
Yamuna Kutty
Jeanette Lambermont-Morey
Ruth Lawrence
Ruby Legge
Lydia Lewycky
Joanne Mac Donald
Heather MacLellan
Leslie MacLeod
Barbara Maidment
Erin Malloy
Cassie Manning-Dyke
Lara Maynard
Debbie McGee
Juanita Mercer
Lorraine Michael
Ann Molloy Carol
Trudy Morgan-Cole
Kathleen Morrissey
Crystal Murphy
Elizabeth Murphy
Richard Murphy
Susan Murray
Geri Nichols
Caroline Nicholson
Patricia O'Brien
Shane & Marie O'Dea
Liz Ohle
Cher O'Keefe
Sheilagh O'Leary
Elisabeth Pardy Hartling

Marion A Pardy
 Joyce Penney
 Tina Pomroy
 Doreen Power
 Michelle Power
 Mary Purchase
 Catherine Rees
 Evelyn Reid
 Doreen Riche
 Rebecca Rose
 Paul Rowe
 Paula Sheppard
 Susan Sherk
 Kim Shipp
 Jean M Smith
 Michelle Snow
 Lima Spurrell
 Annette Staphenhorst
 Samson Staes Emily
 Margaret Staes
 Jane Steneker
 Gail Sullivan
 Lynn Sullivan
 Sara Swain
 Eleanor Swanson
 Christine Taylor-Fearing
 Heidi Tiedemann
 Kim Todd
 Rose Van Driel Scott
 Katrina Vanta
 Mona Wall
 Donna Walsh
 Kelly White
 MarianWhite
 Abra Whitney
 Heidi Wicks
 Amanda Will
 Kate Wilson
 Nancy Winsor
 Christine Winters
 Steven Wolinetz
 Vannie Woodford
 Alison Woolridge
 Aedon Young
 Élyse Young
 Jennifer Young
 Courtney Zwicker

LEADERSHIP DONORS & DEDICATIONS (\$1,000+)

Margo Connors and Robert Stack

Julia Courtney and Scott Oxford

BJ Danylchuk

Shannie Duff

Dr. Margot Duley

In memory of Florence Pitcher Duley, Eliza Vavasour Pitcher, Tryphena Soper Duley and Margaret Duley, all brave and accomplished women in very different ways; and for Heather MacLellan, a tireless advocate for historical preservation.

Roberta Edgecombe Robb

In honour of my parents Margery and Arthur Edgecombe and my Uncle John Butler, whose love and support in my formative years enabled me to walk a non-traditional career path - always mindful of the need to move women's rights forward. It is a great privilege to support this tribute to one of the many wonderful women - Armine Gosling- who walked this equity road with such success nearly one hundred years ago, and showed us all how to do it!

Deborah Fry

Carol Haddad

With thanks to Dr. Margot Duley, whose pioneering scholarship on the history of the Newfoundland Women's Suffrage movement brought Armine's story to us, and to Persistence Theatre for planning and promoting this statue.

Debbie Petite

Gina Pecore

Dr. Anne Stewart Staveley

Dr. Michael Staveley

BUSINESSES & COMMUNITY DONORS

1620 Electrical Workers
 Women's Committee

Growler Energy Online

Newfoundland Transshipment

CFUW

NLOWE

Coady's Fishing Company

Oceanex

Five Island Rug
 Hooking Group

Women in Resource
 Development Corporation

CORPORATE & FOUNDATION DONORS

Elinor Gill Ratcliffe, C.M., U.N.L., LLD (hc)



PUBLIC SPONSORS

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada

Newfoundland
&
Labrador

ST. JOHN'S

Through this initiative, we respond to the persistent and universal need for promoting, understanding and embracing the core beliefs of feminism.

Seeing the statue come to life will inspire modern women to be strong, persistent, and take Armine by the hand as we work together to uphold our belief in equality.

We are on a journey to achieve recognition for Armine and the Women's Suffrage Movement. It is not one person, but many that will #RaiseHerUp on metaphorical 'blocks' purchased by individuals like you.

Each 'block' is \$25 - you can buy one or more, as a one-time or broken up into convenient monthly donations.

Donors are listed online in perpetuity, linked through a QR code which will appear on the statue's permanent interpretive sign. Leadership donations of \$1,000+ will also be listed directly on the statue signage.

Custom dedications to the special women in your life are a popular option - in memoriam, for birthdays, or holiday presents - certificates suitable for printing are available for download on our website. Every donation receives a charitable tax receipt.

HOW TO DONATE

Scan the QR code or visit our website persistence theatre.com

We also accept e-transfers to info@persistence theatre.com
(please include full contact information for the tax receipt)

If you prefer to pay by cheque, it may be made out to "Persistence Theatre Company" and mailed to Persistence Theatre Company, The Nest - 410 East White Hills Road, St. John's, NL A1A 5J7 Canada

Please feel free to contact us at 709-743-4274 or info@persistence theatre.com with any questions or concerns.

