Deborah Butterfield is an established American sculptor best known for her depictions of horses made from found objects and natural materials, such as wood and recycled metal. Her work in bronze is cast from found wood and sticks, and the material of Butterfield’s horses are imbued suggest that the horses were both figure and ground, merging external world with the subject. Her work has been shown in the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Neuberger Museum of Art and the Israeli Museum of Art in Tel Aviv, among others. She has received numerous awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts Individual Artist Fellowship and a Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship. The artist lives and works in studios in Hawaii and Montana.
Development permit application for installation and maintenance of Butterfield Sculpture at UBC Botanical Garden

UBC Botanical Garden has recently received a major artwork from an anonymous donor. The work, a bronze horse sculpture by American artist Deborah Butterfield, will be placed at the edge of the Main Lawn near to the pond. The sculpture, weighing more than 900 kilos, will be fixed with steel plates to a concrete base that will sit just below the surface, reducing trip hazards and allowing viewers to approach and touch the sculpture.

The sculpture is expected to be a major draw to the Garden. Butterfield’s work is highly regarded and widely known.

Maintenance: Maintenance of the sculpture will be funded through an endowment to be established by the donor. The work will be carried out on contract with professional art curators (e.g., Denbigh) on an as needs basis.