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ABOUT *POP-UP TORAH* BY RICHARD GROSSMAN

Richard Grossman's *Pop-Up Torah* has been installed in Mount Princeton, a 14,000 foot-high peak in southern Colorado's Collegiate Range. Conceived as the longest lasting literary and art work in history, the *Pop-Up Torah* is one of several "poetic objects"—works in a variety of media that give literal form to poetry and prose—that the award-winning writer is producing in conjunction with *Breeze Avenue*, his forthcoming 3,000,000-page book, conceived as a literary analog of heaven.

At the heart of *Pop-Up Torah* is the *Torah Ball*, a five-inch corundum (synthetic sapphire) sphere, almost as hard as diamond. Grown over a period of two months in a laboratory furnace, the ball was precisely shaped and optically polished. Finally, Steuben master engraver Max Erlacher spent two months painstakingly etching the flawless sphere with a spiral of the Ten Commandments in Hebrew. The febrile letters of the ancient, "handwritten" text lend the perfectly machined orb the aura of a mystical relic with an undeniably compelling presence.

On August 23, 2011, a team of experts in drilling, construction and surveying inserted the *Torah Ball* into a 300 foot-deep shaft close to the summit of Mount Princeton, one of the tallest peaks in the Rockies, near the town of Buena Vista. The narrow borehole, which took ten days to drill, was then back-filled with cement and covered over to return the site to a pristine state.

After approximately 20 million years, as a result of natural forces that were carefully calculated by geologists, the *Torah Ball* will emerge undamaged from the eroded peak and bear the Ten Commandments down the mountain. In the meantime, in order to assure that the work remains undisturbed by human intervention, the precise location of the *Pop-Up Torah* will not be revealed.

In its use of unconventional materials and methods to present a text, *Pop-Up Torah* reflects Grossman's desire "to redefine the nature of writing based on new perceptions and aesthetic values." As he explains, "The idea of an ethical object being ejected from the heart of a mountain into a world where morality may no longer be at issue is a uniquely challenging literary statement."

For additional information about Richard Grossman and his work, please visit www.richardgrossman.com.

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