ODYSSEUS, RENOWNED FOR HIS BRILLIANCE, GUILE, AND VERSATILITY, MAY BE THE WORLD’S BEST KNOWN MASTER SPY.

The Greeks tried for ten years to conquer Troy, but two obstacles stood in their way: impenetrable fortress walls and the Palladium, a wooden statue of Athena made by the goddess herself. As long as it was in their possession, Troy would not fall.

Odysseus, in disguise, managed to sneak into the city, steal the sacred statue and smuggle it out to the Greek encampment, solving one problem and possibly giving him a solution for the other—to make a new wooden statue dedicated to the same Goddess.

The new sculpture—a horse, because Troy was famously proud of its horses—may have appeared to be a replacement for the stolen Palladium by offering the same protection to the city. The Trojan citizens, vulnerable now because of the loss of their beloved statue, were unable to resist bringing the awe inspiring wooden horse into the city.

Secretly hidden inside the horse, and finally able to sneak inside the walls, Greek heroes lay in waiting.

The Greeks achieved victory not by brute strength but through deception!

The legend of the Trojan Horse became one of the most iconic and widely-known stories of Western civilization. Recounted in histories, painted by artists, and sung by poets, it is rooted in the accounts of our earliest storytellers, Homer, Apollodorus and Virgil. The Trojan Horse and the stunning success of its deployment endure among the most powerful and graphic depictions of deception. The horse was an effective tool of military intelligence and strategic playbooks.

THE TROJAN HORSE PROJECT provides a perfect learn-by-doing educational journey.

In early 2016, Handshouse Studio and the International Spy Museum began discussing plans to reconstruct the first ever, period-accurate Trojan Horse at full scale and install it at the Museum’s dramatic new building in Washington, DC.

Students at Massachusetts College of Art and Design started a rigorous process of researching the history of the Trojan Horse. They created detailed drawings, scale models, and reproduced examples...
of ancient tools and processes. They have become history detectives: reading Greek literature, looking at centuries of clay, bronze and stone artifacts, researching horse breeds from ancient Turkey, and studying the archeological ruins, architecture and boat building techniques of the period.

As the project moves forward Hands-house Studio will offer Trojan Horse Travel Programs to Greece and Turkey. Students will visit museums, participate in traditional building techniques and explore the ancient ruins of Troy.

Handshouse will reconstruct the Trojan Horse in Greece or Turkey bringing international attention to The Trojan Horse Project and the International Spy Museum. It will bring a contemporary context to the story of the Trojan Horse as an object of deception linked to ongoing findings at the ancient site of Troy—the detective work of today’s archeologist. The project will reinforce the Spy Museum’s mission to educate the public about espionage and intelligence in an engaging way.

HANDSHOUSE STUDIO is an innovative, non-profit, educational organization that creates adventurous hands-on projects through community-service, working with non-profit partners around the world as a way to explore history, understand science, and perpetuate the arts. Handshouse, co-founded by Rick and Laura Brown in 2002, has gained international recognition for its pedagogical method of connecting institutions and organizations to carry out bold and complex projects.

Handshouse creates projects outside of the traditional classroom that energize history through the reconstruction of large historical objects. These intense workshops bring together scholars, educators, historians, architects, engineers, anthropologists, archeologists, artists, craftsmen and students to create a dynamic learning experience where everyone contributes and everyone learns.

Egyptian Obelisk: Rick and Laura Brown of Handshouse Studio, discovered how the ancient Egyptians raised monolithic monuments with little more than rope, wood, muscle and brainpower. After months of investigation and research with traditional builders, Laura and Rick assembled a team of experts at a Massachusetts quarry to prove their theory for “Pharaoh’s Obelisk” of the PBS/NOVA Secrets of Lost Empires series.
**The Bushnell Turtle:** David Bushnell, a Connecticut Yankee, had a daring idea to break the British blockade in New York harbor during the American Revolution: he would build a one-man submarine and attach a bomb to the underside of the British ships to blow them up. Intrigued, Rick and Laura led the effort to build a replica of this wooden submarine, nicknamed the “Turtle,” using only the tools and technologies of the day. With help from students and professional craftsmen plus the submarine expertise of the United States Naval Academy, they built, tested, and ultimately proved Bushnell’s seemingly radical idea. In 2004, Discovery Channel, England’s Channel 4 and France’s Channel 5 aired their TV documentary film, “First Submarine”.

**Jean Rodolphe Perrenot Crane:** During a 5-day workshop in 2002, a Handshouse team of eighty students, professors, and master timber framers created a working replica of the 50-foot wooden, human-powered crane, using 18th-century materials and technology. The crane was originally designed by Jean Rodolphe Perronet in 1750 for the construction of a stone bridge over the Loire River in Orleans, France.

**The Gwoździec Synagogue:** The wooden synagogues of 18th century Poland inspired Rick and Laura Brown of Handshouse Studio to embark on a 10-year journey to reconstruct the elaborate roof and painted ceiling of the Gwoździec synagogue. Leading over 300 students and professionals from 16 countries, they have done more than reconstruct a lost synagogue: they have recovered a lost world. In 2014, the Gwoździec roof was unveiled as the centerpiece of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. Trillium Studio’s documentary film “Raise the Roof” tells this story.

In covering the many facets of Intelligence, The **INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM** chose the Trojan Horse to stand as a powerful symbol of Covert Action, those clandestine operations designed to deceive an adversary. As such, its prominent placement in front of the Museum will serve as a constant reminder to be alert for deception in dealing with our adversaries.
BUT COME NOW, CHANGE THY THEME, AND SING OF THE BUILDING OF THE HORSE OF WOOD... – ODYSSEUS, HOMER’S ODYSSEY
For more information on supporting this project and the mission of the International Spy Museum please contact Rebecca Diamond, Director of Development and Membership at rdiamond@spymuseum.org or 202-654-0954