

EDUCATIONAL PARK BRANCH LIBRARY PUBLIC ART UPDATE

ARTIST: Catherine Wagner



Elevation View of Artwork



Sample images and groupings

ABOUT THE PROJECT

As part of the City's ongoing commitment to the arts, the City of San José Public Art Program commissioned artist Catherine Wagner to collaborate with community members, the architectural design team and Library staff in the development of artwork for the Educational Park Branch Library.

THE ARTIST'S CONCEPT

Catherine Wagner will work in the 30' tall entry spine that runs the depth of the library above the section called the Marketplace. She is developing a 21st century architectural frieze (a decorative band typically located just below the roofline), inspired by Mildred Overfelt, that investigates ideas about knowledge, nature, wonder, and discovery. The frieze will consist of photographs and abstractions printed on metal panels of varying sizes. Some of the source material for the photographs will be Scholars' Rocks, elements of symbols about thought and thinking, biomimicry (the science of emulating nature to evolve sustainable manmade processes), and tree and rock patterns found in Overfelt Gardens.

Another exciting aspect of the project highlighting the important collaboration between the artist, architects, and the Library; the artist will be creating the signage for the “Tech Connect” area of the library, which is directly adjacent to the Marketplace, and conceptually part of artwork. The artist is collaborating with Michael Thompson, an algorithmic designer, on Tech Connect signage.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

A faculty member at Mills College in Oakland, California since 1978, Catherine Wagner works with archetypes of society and transforms them into conceptual images investigating the construction of culture. She has been a keen observer of the built environment for more than 20 years. Her work is represented in significant public collections worldwide, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), Bibliotheque National de Paris, and the Victoria and Albert Museum (London).

Wagner is the recipient of many prestigious awards, including the Guggenheim Fellowship and National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships. In 2001, she was named one of *Time* magazine's "Fine Arts Innovators of the Year." She received both B.A. and M.A. degrees from San Francisco State University. She was featured on “Spark” a program of local art and artists produced by Bay Area Public Television station KQED. That segment is available on www.KQED.org. The artist is represented by Stephen Wirtz Gallery in San Francisco.

PROJECT TEAM

Building Architect: Anderson Brulé Architects, San Jose

Client Department: San José Public Library

Public Art Project Manager: Jennifer A. Easton

ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community identity by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape. Through active community engagement, public art strives to reflect the City’s diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is part of the City’s Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of the Office of Economic Development. The Public Art Program was established by a 1992 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development.

For further information please contact the City of San Jose Public Art Program: 408.277.5144

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