

SANTA TERESA BRANCH LIBRARY~ PUBLIC ART UPDATE

ARTIST: Beatrice Coron



Left to right: Artist concept sketch for Tree of Knowledge window panes; sample renderings of Orchard Walk sidewalk elements; concept sketch of Bibliotree sculpture

ABOUT THE PROJECT

As part of the City's ongoing commitment to the arts, artist Beatrice Coron has been commissioned develop public art for the new Santa Teresa Branch Library. A Public Art Core Team comprised of key community members, a representative of the San Jose Public Library, and the project architect recommended the selection of Ms. Coron for this project and provided input on the visioning and concept for the artwork.

THE ARTIST'S CONCEPT

The artwork includes three key elements built around the theme "Cultivate Your Mind in the Orchard of Knowledge":

Orchard Walk thematic sidewalk insets are twenty-six 8"x 10" elements made of stainless steel and flamed granite embedded in the concrete of the walkway. Each depicts a fruit and related literary or media reference drawn from both world literature and as well as items in the San Jose Public Library collection. There is also a symbolic "welcome mat" composed the same material. It contains whimsical images of two people, male and female, tending a garden and framed in the words "Cultivate Your Mind in the Orchard of Knowledge." This will be located in the vicinity of the main entrance to the Library.

Tree of Knowledge windows are three glass panes: two smaller ones measuring 41" x 104" and one large pane that is 82" x 104" included in the window curtain wall along the Library's marketplace lobby. Their design appears as if one were looking at the age rings in the cross-section of a tree trunk. Images in each concentric ring speak to a specific period in the region's history and growth, from the earliest period of indigenous inhabitants to the present. The window panes will be created in handmade insulated glass using varied

treatments fused into the glass to provide distinct appearances to the different rings in the design. They will be positioned to facilitate detailed viewing by both children and adults.

Bibliotree is a sculptural element in the form of a tall flourishing tree made of water jet cut stainless steel. It will be located within the landscaped area near the front entry of the library in close proximity to the other public art elements. It will be 10' high and approximately 6' wide at the widest point in its foliage. The cut outs in the trunk are of letters from the many alphabets contained in the Library's collection. On the lower branches of the tree are books and objects associated with reading; these continue onto the higher branches, which also contain objects representing newer forms of media. In this way the work references a developmental progression from the roots of language in letters and alphabets into literature and on into other media. The *Bibliotree* position adjacent to the *Orchard Walk* sidewalk element creates a fanciful relationship between the pieces as if these elements are "leaves" that have fallen onto the walkway.

The artwork will be completed with funding provided as part of a \$212 million dollar bond measure approved by voters in November 2000.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Beatrice Coron has worked extensively in the art of paper cutting and the creation of artist books. She has translated the aesthetic of this work into public art in the media of stainless steel and in glass. Her public art works are featured in multiple locations throughout metropolitan New York City, Chicago, Charlotte NC, and in Lyon, France. Her works are in collections in numerous museums, libraries and universities nationally and internationally.

PROJECT TEAM

Building Architect: Studios Architecture, San Francisco
Client Department: San José Public Library
Public Art Project Manager: Lynn Rogers

PUBLIC ART CORE TEAM MEMBERS

Tim Karas, SJ Library Commissioner; Ann Marcolini, President, Friends of the Santa Teresa Library; Wilma Hashii, Chairperson (former), Friends of the Santa Teresa Branch Library; Joe Saxe, artist; Charles Dilworth, Principal, STUDIOS Architecture; Cornelia Van Aken, Branch Manager, Santa Teresa Library

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 with artists, public art projects strive to reflect the City's ethnic diversity, historic richness, and envision its' present and future.

The Public Art Program is a program of San José's Office of Cultural Affairs. The San José Arts Commission oversees the Public Art Program, established by a 1984 municipal ordinance that provides 2% for art in City capital improvement projects, and 1% for art in eligible private development.

**For further information and photos, please contact publicart@sanjoseca.gov

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