



SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION

PRESS RELEASE

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San Francisco Artists Capture History and Growth of City's O.M.I. District  
in New Public Art Work for Neighborhood Branch Library

A husband and wife team of San Francisco artists focuses on the history and growth of the city's O.M.I. district in a new art work for the just completed Ocean View Public Library, 345 Randolph Street. There will be a dedication ceremony on Wednesday, June 7, at 12 noon, preceded by a parade beginning at the old library, Plymouth and Broad, at 11 a.m.

Mark Roller and Colette Crutcher have created two nine-square-foot sculptural relief panels of colored concrete, which flank the doors of the new branch library. In each panel, the dominant image, a tree symbolizing knowledge and growth, stands out against a long, horizontal cityscape of bygone, altered, and new landmarks extending along the lower section of the two-part work.

Some of the cityscape images are the turn-of-the-century Ingleside Race Track, a vintage streetcar, a historic fire station, the former women's prison building that is now City College, a 1930s movie house (now the Pentecostal church), today's City College, the Pentecostal Church, a modern Muni metro car, the new library building, and the new community center across the street.

Embedded in the branches of the pastel green trees are rust-colored medallions representing music, mathematics, language, and other areas of learning. In the lefthand panel, representing the past, the tree is young and its branches are sparse. At right, the trunk is thick and the canopy is full. In each tree's center is an image of two hands with a white bird. At left, the bird is snugly cupped in the hands; at the right, it takes flight from open palms.

"To us, the bird signals the human potential for breaking boundaries," says Colette Crutcher. "Our aim in the work as a whole has been to show how growth and new possibilities are rooted in the best of what has gone before."

(more)

RICHARD NEWBIRTH  
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## Public Art at Ocean View Library 2-2-2

Mark Roller is a painter and sculptor who exhibits his work every year during the Hunter's Point Open Studios. Colette Crutcher, who is primarily a painter, has also completed several public murals and mosaics. She was a 1996 Norcal Artist in Residence.

The two artists were commissioned for the Ocean View Library art work by the San Francisco Arts Commission in accord with the city's public art ordinance, which provides for an art enrichment allocation equivalent to 2% of the construction budget of a new or renovated civic construction project. An independent panel selected the team after proposals by four finalists were on display for two weeks in the old Ocean View Library building, where community members reviewed them and voted for their preference.

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