



SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION

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GAVIN NEWSOM  
MAYOR

LUIS R. CANCEL  
DIRECTOR OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

**FACT SHEET**

*Three Heads Six Arms* by Zhang Huan

**PROJECT  
DESCRIPTION:**

- The installation of *Three Heads Six Arms* (2008) in Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Piazza marks the sculpture's world premiere.
- The sculpture is on loan courtesy of the artist and The Pace Gallery through 2011.
- *Three Heads Six Arms* is Zhang's largest sculpture to date, standing over 26 feet tall and weighing almost fifteen tons.
- *Three Heads Six Arms* is part of a series of monumental works depicting the fragmented extremities of Buddhist sculptures that was inspired by Zhang's discovery of religious sculptures that had been destroyed during the Cultural Revolution for sale in a Tibetan market.
- The artist, having been deeply moved by the sight of the desecrated statues, believes that by recreating these fragments on a grand scale, he is able to alleviate the pain caused by their destruction.
- The head facing north is a self-portrait of Zhang.
- According to the artist, the shape of *Three Heads Six Arms* was inspired by the Chinese mythological character Nezha, which is a protective deity, and Tibetan Buddhist deities.
- *Three Heads Six Arms* is also meant to reflect the changing realities of Chinese people today and the attitude that humankind has conquered nature.

**DIMENSIONS:**

- 26' 3" x 59' 3/4" x 32' 9-3/4" (800 cm x 1,800 cm x 1,000 cm)

**MATERIALS &  
FABRICATION:**

- Approximately 4 tons of copper and 6 tons of steel
- 40 artisans from Zhang Huan's Shanghai Studio fabricated the sculpture for approximately 50 days

**LOCATION:**

**Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Piazza**

(Civic Center Plaza)

Larkin Street, between McAllister and Grove streets

**DEDICATION:**

May 12, 2010



CITY AND COUNTY OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

**PROJECT COST:** approx. \$150,000

**FUNDING:** The presentation of *Three Heads Six Arms* in Joseph L. Alioto Performing Arts Piazza was made possible by the Public Art Program of the San Francisco Arts Commission, courtesy of The Pace Gallery, primarily through private funding and use of art enrichment funds from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Major sponsorship was provided by the Matson Navigation Company, the Waterfront Container Leasing Company, Inc. and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional project support was provided by: The Pace Gallery, Atthowe Fine Art Services, the Huntington Hotel, Degenkolb Engineers and Absinthe Brasserie & Bar. The Arts Commission also wishes to acknowledge the following individuals and agencies whose assistance made this project possible: Senator Dianne Feinstein, Mayor Gavin Newsom, Roselyne C. Swig, Consulate General of the People's Republic of China, the Asian Art Museum and the Recreation and Parks Department.

**ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS:** Curatorial selection was made by the Arts Commission upon the Mayor's discretion.

**LEAD PROJECT TEAM:** **San Francisco Arts Commission**

- Jill Manton, current director of programs, former public art program director and project manager
- Allison Cummings, senior registrar
- Atthowe Fine Art Services
- Matson Team Shanghai
- Waterfront Container and Leasing Inc.

**The Pace Gallery**

- Joe Baptista

**ABOUT THE ARTS COMMISSION'S PUBLIC ART PROGRAM:** The Arts Commission's Public Art Program was established by the City Arts Enrichment Ordinance in 1969, as one of the first of its kind in the country. The Public Art Program seeks to promote a diverse and stimulating cultural environment to enrich the lives of the City's residents, visitors and employees. The Program encourages the creative interaction of artists, designers, City staff, officials and community members during the design of City projects in order to develop public art that is specific to the site and meaningful to the community. Visit [www.sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection](http://www.sfartscommission.org/pubartcollection).

**ABOUT PACE GALLERY:** The Pace Gallery was founded by Arne Glimcher in Boston in 1960. Three years later, the gallery relocated to New York, setting up its headquarters in Midtown Manhattan. By the early 1980s, Pace was fully established as one of the city's premier modern and contemporary art venues for painting, sculpture, video, and installation art. Over the years, Pace's stable has grown to include major international artists and estates of the 20th and 21st centuries. The gallery has mounted nearly 700 exhibitions, including several scholarly shows that have traveled to museums, and has published more than 300 exhibition catalogs. The Pace Gallery will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary this year.

The Pace Gallery website: [www.thepacegallery.com](http://www.thepacegallery.com)

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