



## **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

### **Terminal 2 at San Francisco International Airport**

San Francisco enhances the beauty of its public buildings and spaces through the Art Enrichment Ordinance. One of the first in the country, the ordinance mandates that 2% of the total eligible construction costs of civic public works projects be allocated for public art. The remodel of Terminal 2 (T2), formerly the Central Terminal, at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) generated approximately \$3.7 million in art enrichment funds for a public art program that features new commissioned work by local and national artists of outstanding merit as well as the reinstallation of important work by local, national and international artists already represented in the airport collection.

### **PROJECT SCOPE & TIMELINE**

From the onset of the planning and design of the T2 remodel, Arts Commission staff worked closely with the Airport Design Team, which included the project architecture firm Gensler, representatives from the Bureau of Design and Construction and the Airport Museums to ensure the effective incorporation of art into the building's overall design. Due to an accelerated design schedule, the Gensler design team took the lead on identifying opportunities for art enrichment locations. This approach ensured that the proposed art sites supported the architectural concepts and complemented the other airport program requirements. Early architectural concept drawings from Gensler provided the Arts Commission with inspiration and direction for the public art program.

The Arts Commission developed an art program plan that called for commissioning three large signature artworks for the Terminal's glass façade, entry lobby mezzanine area and the post security recompose area. In addition, two interactive artworks would be commissioned for the children's play areas and smaller artworks would be commissioned or purchased for other areas in the terminal, with an emphasis on the gate rooms. The plan also included the reinstallation of artworks already in the airport collection, some of which were historically sited in T2. On July 7, 2008, the plan was presented and approved by the Airport Art Steering Committee, a working committee comprised of airport and Arts Commission representatives.

The Arts Commission issued a national request for qualifications and received 530 responses. Artists commissioned for the priority areas would be selected based on their qualifications and previous experience working with architects to design large-scale integrated artworks. An Artist Selection Panel was assembled to identify artists whose past experience and artistic vocabulary indicated that they could develop projects that could be integrated into the building plans in a very short time frame. The panel consisted of three arts professionals (two artists and a cultural planner for the Los Angeles Redevelopment Agency), a representative from the airport and the Gensler architecture team and an active Arts Commissioner.

The Artist Selection Panel reviewed two proposals for the façade screen and selected a proposal by artist Norie Sato. The Panel also chose artists Kendall Buster and Janet Echelman's proposals for suspended sculptures for the entry lobby and for the post security recompose area and boarding area, respectively. In addition to these large-scale artworks for the priority areas, the Artist Selection Panel reviewed proposals for T2's children's play area by Charles Sowers and Walter Kitundu. Both artists work for the San Francisco Exploratorium and specialize in interactive artwork. After the Artist Selection Panel made their selections, the projects were presented to the Airport Art Steering Committee, which unanimously approved all of the proposals.

## **RE-INSTALLATION OF EXISTING COLLECTION**

In addition to commissioning and purchasing new artwork for T2, the Arts Commission made it a priority to re-install artwork in the airport's collection that was historically sited in T2 or that was in storage. When T2 was rebuilt as an international terminal in 1983, three major sculptures by acclaimed international artists Arnaldo Pomodoro, Rufino Tamayo and Seiji Kunishima were purchased/commissioned. Pomodoro's sculpture *Cilandro Costruito* will be re-installed on level 1 and Tamayo's *Conquest of Space* will be sited at the north end of the International Terminal drop off, near the BART entrance. Of the three works, only Kunishima's *Stacking Stones* remained in place, wrapped for protection, during construction. Upon the building's completion the companion paintings by Marc Katano that historically flanked the sculpture will be returned to their original locations.

Another important component of the T2 public art program is the re-installation of three beautiful tapestries by Mark Adams that have been in storage for over 20 years. The tapestries, which will be placed in the greeters lounge, depict garden imagery from local San Francisco and Bay Area sites. East Bay artist Dan Snyder's joyous *Welcome Wall*, which was originally commissioned for the old International Terminal arrivals area until it was displaced, will be returned to the T2 arrivals area. In addition to the Marc Katano paintings that flank the Kunishima work, paintings by important Bay Area painters such as Joan Brown, Willard Dixon, Roy de Forrest, Hassel Smith, Sam Tchakalian, Wade Hofer and others will also be re-installed.