

Window Box #1 & #2, & Children's Wing Mural

Artist: Joe Saxe

March 2005

Berryessa Branch Library / 3355 Noble Ave., San Jose, CA 95132/ Council District 4

ABOUT THE PROJECT

As part of the City's on going commitment to the arts, the San José Public Art Program commissioned artist Joe Saxe to collaborate with the community in the development of artwork for Berryessa Branch Library.

The artist created a mural for the children's area depicting daytime and evening in a very bold graphic style. In addition, he created two large window boxes: one located in the foyer (Window Box #2), the other over the fireplace in the community room (Window Box #1). The compartments of the window boxes bring together objects and images related to reading, learning and the local community. The colorful style is combination of realist and fantastical imagery that reflects the influence of cartoons, film noir, and graphics.

“The people who live in this part of San Jose wanted their new library to be warm, welcoming, and to reflect the natural beauty of the surrounding environment. I took all this into account, and combined it with my feelings about libraries and San José. The resulting imagery is personal, and I hope, universal. In reflection, I think that Berryessa Window Box #1 is kind of an altar dedicated to the institution of the Public Library - I believe libraries are a crucial foundation of our free society. ... I'm really grateful for these places where any of us can go - independent of our teachers, our boss, our government, or anyone else - and educate ourselves about whatever we choose.” -Joe Saxe, Artist

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Since graduating from San Jose State University in 1994, Mr. Saxe has been showing regularly in California and New York. Other public art commissions include permanent works in Alameda County Juvenile Justice



Children's Wing Mural



Window Box #2



Detail, Window Box #1

Center and San Jose's Sharkbyte Art. He is also a well-respected illustrator for magazine, book, and business clients. According to the artist, much of his work is "really about people - - the psychology of our relationships with each other and with society."

More of Joe Saxe's work may be seen at www.joesaxe.com.

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 1984 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development.

For further information and photos, please contact the San José Public Art Program.

