

Enchanted Forest and Almaden Valley

Artists: Evans & Brown

May 2006

Almaden Community Center and Library / 6445 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120 / Council District 10

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Artist team Mark Evans and Charley Brown created two murals for the Almaden Community Center and Library. *Almaden Valley* is a two panel mural that flanks the stage in the community room. The left panel is a representation of the agrarian past of the Almaden Valley. The image depicts a man carrying a bushel basket. In the background is an oak tree symbolizing the eternal quality of the natural world. The right panel depicts a female figure with children dancing around her. She faces the children with her arms stretched upward seeming to hold a transparent sphere. The sphere symbolizes the limitless possibilities of the future.



Above: *Almaden Valley* mural panels in the Community Room

Both panels are painted on a gilt silver background (gold over silver). A limited palette of cinnabar-colored pigment is used. The silver and cinnabar reference the local mercury mines that played an important part in the development of the Almaden area. The mural has a stylistic affinity to the murals created through the federal WPA program in the 1930's and 40's. The connection to this rich heritage is important to artists' vision for the work.

Evans and Brown also created two decorative murals for the Children's Areas in the Library and Community wings of the building. As its name conveys, *Enchanted Forest* suggests themes of a whimsical enchanted forest.



Above: detail of *Enchanted Forest* mural in the children's area

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Charley Brown and Mark Evans started Evans & Brown over twenty-five years ago. They modeled Evans & Brown as a modern day atelier in the tradition of artists from Rubens to Warhol. Evans & Brown is known for its command of classical technique, which can be defined as combination of natural ability with extensive training in the essential traditional skills and craft of art.

Evans & Brown has worked all over the world. Its work can be seen in projects as diverse as the Pompeian style frescos in the American Embassy in Cyprus, the surrealist fantasy of the Pan-Pacific Hotel in Yokohama, the 18th century Italian frescos of the Monadnock Building in San Francisco, and the 40s-style tribute to film production at Sony Entertainment in Culver City.

More about the studio can be found at their website: www.evansandbrown.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.