

# Lightlines and Wall of Birds In Flight

Artist: Joyce Cutler Shaw

August 2009

East San Jose Carnegie Branch Library / 1102 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose, CA 95116 / Council District 3

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## ABOUT THE PROJECT



Above: *Wall of Birds In Flight*, detail.

East San Jose Carnegie Branch Library features two public art elements by Joyce Cutler Shaw.

*Lightlines*, a sculpture fabricated from aluminum coils, is suspended from the building's ceiling trusses in and around the main entrance and along the full length of the east/west hallway.

Working with the community, Cutler Shaw explored the shapes, forms, and cultural and natural elements of the neighborhood. She identified imagery that speaks to this area and location, out of which she created a visual vocabulary she calls the East San Jose Carnegie Calligraphy. From this imagery she created laser cut, iridescent acrylic figurative elements that are suspended from the aluminum coils of *Lightlines*; these animate the artwork with reflective light.

*Wall of Birds in Flight* is an installation on the Library's west wall in the children's area. The artwork plays on imagery of local birds in flight - some in silhouette, others in great detail and back-lit. The work brings natural elements of the outdoor environment - the neighborhood's abundant bird life - indoors.



Above: *Lightlines*, extending down the main corridor of the Library.

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Joyce Cutler Shaw is a San Diego-based installation artist who works in multi-media. Her work typically references nature and elements found in the natural environment that are specific or indigenous to the site of the artwork as well as the culture and history of the site and the people. She has done numerous public commissions, many of which are in California. She has a special creative interest in libraries, language and creative approaches to symbolism through innovation in calligraphies.

More of her work may be seen at [www.joycecutlershaw.com](http://www.joycecutlershaw.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.

