

Ohlone Woman

Artist: Lisa Reinertson

May 2007

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

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The courtyard artwork is a life size image of a native Californian: an Ohlone woman in a tule reed boat. For the artist this image honors the roots of our humanity and those who dwelled here in a world of unimaginable natural beauty.

The bronze sculpture is 6' x 7'-5" x 2'-5" (h x w x d). The bas-relief supporting the boat depicts a visual narrative of the history of the local region and of California.

The images depicted on the bas-relief represent an integrated view across time:

- Landscape depicting the area pre-European settlement: oak trees, hills, a stream, a view to the distant ocean, and native flora and fauna including poppies, lupine, redwood trees, deer and birds
- In the view to the ocean bay is a Spanish Galleon signaling their arrival to the region
- Circling around the front is a packing mule and miner, referencing the quicksilver mines and the Gold Rush era
- The miner stands on a precipice overlooking an orchard
- In the far right there is a highway that curves away taking the viewers eye to a cityscape of the modern San José region
- The visual narrative ends with an image of a young woman gazing at a computer screen.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Lisa Reinertson has been creating large scale figurative public sculpture for over 17 years. Her artworks include *Cesar E. Chavez Memorial* for the Chavez Plaza in Sacramento and the *Mother and Child Sculpture Garden* for Palm Desert City Park. She has also created Dr. Martin Luther King sculptures for several cities around the country. Lisa received her M.F.A. from the University of California, Davis.

More of Lisa Reinertson's work may be seen at www.lisareinertson.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.

