

Solar Illumination I: Evolution of Language

Artist: Lynn Goodpasture

August 2008

Pearl Avenue Branch Library / 4720 Pearl Ave., San Jose, CA 95136 / Council District 9

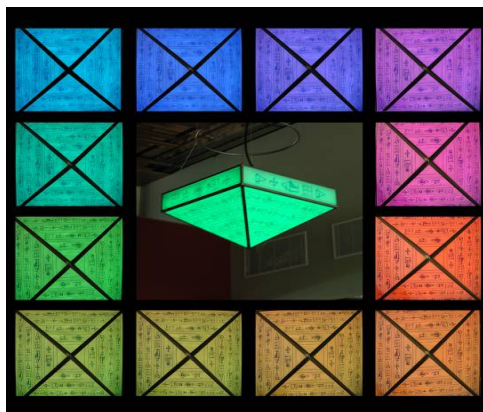
ABOUT THE PROJECT

Artist Lynn Goodpasture was commissioned by the San José Public Art Program to collaborate with the community, design team, and Library in the development of artwork. Goodpasture fuses elements of ancient civilization and green technology in the artwork she created for the site. The work includes four art glass windows located in the Library Children's area and a suspended glass lamp near the library entrance.

The artwork's visual imagery refers to ancient alphabets as the foundation of the written word, which in turn is fundamental to libraries and illumination of the mind. Each pane contains characters in different scripts that are the basis for written Latin, Russian, Vietnamese and some Indian languages. These are lineages of the languages that presently are predominant in the Pearl Avenue Branch Library collection. The lamp is inscribed with ancient Sumerian cuneiform script which repeats the text "We are all one." The lamp



Windows – interior view (right); exterior detail of photovoltaic cells (below)



Lamp with cuneiform script; color pattern detail

is lit with color changing LEDs, programmed to cycle on 30-minute intervals through the color spectrum. In this way the lamp also functions as a timepiece.

Another critical but unseen aspect to the artwork are photovoltaic cells that are embedded in the four glass panes. These collect solar energy that then provides power to light the lamp.



Through this work the artist is seeking to awaken people to the miracle of language and writing as the key to understanding the past, expressing the present and imagining the future. Goodpasture also wants to raise awareness of the real possibilities of harnessing available energy to provide for basic needs.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Lynn Goodpasture creates architecturally and site-integrated artwork for both private and public clients throughout the world, most often working in glass and mosaic. Her work often explores systems – including natural, mathematical, and language. Her past commissions have included a diverse array of projects, from Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines to the Royal Commission Headquarters in Saudi Arabia.

Goodpasture collaborated very closely on this project with Peters Studios. Established nearly 100 years ago, Peters Studios is a leader in the international art glass industry, and was the first art glass studio to incorporate building-integrated photovoltaics and art glass. Peters specializes in all techniques of classical and modern glass design with a vision of collaboration to raise the level of architectural art glass to that of a true art form.

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 of San Jose 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.