

Untitled (Vessel Seats and Carpet of Leaves), 1999 Untitled (Leaf path), 2005

Artist: Cynthia Handel

Phase I: November 1999

Phase II: May 2005

Meadowfair Park / Barberry Ln. and Corda Dr., San Jose, CA 95121 / Council District 8

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Cynthia Handel participated in the City of San José Public Art Program's *Artist's Training Project* in 1997. Following the workshop series, participants were invited to submit proposals for upcoming City-funded public art projects. Cynthia's proposal for the upgrading of Meadowfair Park was one of the accepted proposals. Ultimately the redevelopment of the park was completed in two phases.

The artwork is a commemoration of the black walnut trees that once covered the area. For Phase I, the artist created a contemplative space within the park. The artwork consists of five cast concrete vessel seats with bronze leaf and seed elements cast into the top of each. The seats are on a concrete pad inlaid with cast bronze leaves. The piece is sited under a single black walnut tree within a triangular area defined by pedestrian pathways. For Phase II, the artist inset bronze leaves, spirals and black walnut centers at junctions along the newly created pathways in the park. She envisions them as gifts or surprises to be found as visitors meander along the paths. The spiral is a universal symbol of regeneration, birth and growth.

My work is derived from my interests in natural organic forms and processes... I am interested in referencing and exploring themes of reproduction and regeneration. – Cynthia Handel

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Cynthia Handel is a sculptor who has been teaching cast metal many years. She was assistant professor at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge from 1999-2003. She has taught at Sonoma State University, San Jose State University. She currently teaches at The Crucible in Oakland. Her work combines cast elements with steel, wood and other materials such as silk and beeswax. Cynthia received her MFA from San Jose State University. More about the artist may be found at www.cynthiahandel.com.



Above: Vessel Seats and Carpet of Leaves.
Below: a section of leaf path.



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.

