

---

# Brain Works, 2013

Artist: Marta Thoma Hall

Bestor Art Park, Bestor Street & S. Sixth St, San Jose, CA 95112 / Council District 3

---

## ABOUT THE PROJECT



Marta Thoma Hall's *Brain Works* sculpture reflects her close work with the Spartan Keys community which had prioritized an iconic, "visually dramatic" sculpture to be located in the neighborhood's Bestor Art Park as one of its top goals in the City's Strong Neighborhoods Initiative.

The Spartan Keys neighborhood is home to many artists and working families; creativity and hard work are at the core of the neighborhood character. The community inspired the concept for the artwork and their input helped shape the vision.

*Brain Works*, a major sculpture 28' x 9' x 10,' in size, is designed to be seen throughout the neighborhood towards the I-280 freeway. The sculpture includes blue, subtle lighting at night, making it recognizable and distinguishable in the night sky. The artwork materials include familiar objects such as bottles and spoons, most of which were contributed by the community. Incorporating these utilitarian objects into artwork is a way of honoring everyday work and activities. Making art with bottles, objects still discarded as trash, helps exemplify transformation for the public: by coloring the bottles and

massing them together, the "trash," appears more like gems in a stained-glass window of a church. For Hall, making art with bottles, objects still discarded as trash, helps exemplify transformation for the public: by coloring the bottles and massing them together, the "trash," appears more like gems in a stained-glass window of a church.

*Brain Works* is an abstract vision with symbols of sweat, tears, energy, light, and life celebration. The artwork speaks to children, teens, hard working parents, laborers, professional artists, students, and all people working toward goals and following their dreams.



#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Marta Thoma Hall is an American painter and sculptor based in the San Francisco Bay Area and Kauai, HI. As an artist she is known for her unique juxtaposition of imagery with a surreal bent. She exhibits art and unusual installations of steel and glass across the United States and Costa Rica.

Thoma Hall studied fine arts at UC Berkeley and San Francisco State University. In 2022 she founded Hall Art + Technology Foundation (HATF), an educational arts foundation focused on the intersection of art and science in the modern world.

More of her work may be seen at <https://www.martathomahall.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 1992 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.

