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# Monument to The Last Barn

Artist: Gloria Bornstein

October 2006

Emma Prusch Farm Park / 647 S. King Road, San Jose, CA 95122 / Council District 5

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## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Artist Gloria Bornstein was commissioned to develop an artwork for Emma Prusch Farm Park, an effort that she undertook in collaboration with the community.

Native San Josean Emma Prusch bequeathed the land and its buildings to the City in 1962, once a working dairy farm. The park consists of 47 acres remaining from the original gift. The deed to the City specified that the City “will make said park a place of relaxation, recreation, and enjoyment for the people of the City of San Jose, and in such a manner as will, to extent that such can be reasonably done, give to said park a rural county character and atmosphere.” Emma Prusch Farm Park includes heritage, high density, and rare fruit orchards, a Plant Science Center, two community gardens, pollinator and butterfly gardens, as well as acres of lush green lawns for picnics and playing. It also has one of the largest free standing wooden barns in California, home to 4H large animals including beef cattle, sheep, and swine.

The artist, Gloria Bornstein, was inspired by the area’s rich agricultural history and continuing traditions. The artwork clearly draws upon this influence: the form is a four-sided metal structure derived from traditional Santa Clara barns, but stripped of outer cladding to reveal the essential framework. This iconic linkage to early barns is further underscored by the rich, deep barn red color of the piece. The barn’s corrugated galvanized steel roof is topped with three golden wind vanes depicting a rooster, a windmill and an apple. The gables and railings are inset with filigree screens in a bold “fruits and leaves” pattern, representing the orchards that were so vital to the region. Benches placed inside the barn create an inviting and reflective atmosphere amidst the lively park grounds. The artist conceived of this work as homage to the last great large barn on the site at Prusch Farm Park.



Above: View of *The Last Barn* during the final stages of construction and details of the roof vanes and filigree work.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gloria Bornstein is a Seattle artist who has created numerous public artworks in the U.S. and abroad. In addition to her public art practice, she has been involved in numerous art installations, performances and exhibitions. Her work often investigates issues of personal history and identity. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Hunter College in New York, studied Visual Arts at University of California San Diego, and holds and a Master of Arts in Psychology from Antioch University, Seattle. More about the artist may be found on her website [www.gloriaborNSTEIN.com](http://www.gloriaborNSTEIN.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.

