



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

Blue McRight

Twist and Sprout, 2007

Engraved brass (*Twist*); stainless steel, LED lamps (*Sprout*)

(*Twist*) 250 markers each measuring 1-5/32" d

(*Sprout*) 9' h overall, pods measuring 7' h x 1'3" h x 9" d and 7'6" h x 1'3" w x 9" d

North University Community Branch Library and Nobel Athletic Area, University City
2007.2

Commissioned for the citizens of San Diego through the Commission for Arts and Culture and the Library, Park and Recreation, and Engineering and Capital Projects Departments of the City of San Diego

Blue McRight created two original artworks entitled *Twist* and *Sprout* for the Nobel Athletic Area and North University Community Branch Library. The artist, inspired by the natural terrain and uses for the site, created a meaningful sense of place by symbolically identifying the two main buildings, the library and recreation center, as the mind and the body respectively. Through the use of metaphoric imagery, the artist encourages the whole complex to be seen as representing the whole person. In addition to the thematic connection of the mind/library with the body/athletic area, the artist draws inspiration from the natural environment and the technology industry which neighbors the site.

Sprout, McRight's large-scale light sculpture is located in the library's front courtyard and creates a pedestrian eddy, enhancing the entrance as a place to reflect. Composed of two steel forms reminiscent of seeds or pods balanced by a stainless steel stem, the organic, tactile forms of the sculpture are striking in contrast to the geometric forms of the architecture. The sculpture also presents a distinctive night presence as energy efficient LED lights shine from within the pods through laser-cut perforations in the steel.

Through the use of light, the artist acknowledges the crucial role technology plays in enabling cultures to evolve. The perforations through which the light emanates are formed in the shapes of the initials T, A, C, G which stand for Thymine, Adenine, Cytosine, and Guanine, the nucleotides which pair to produce the double helix structure of DNA. The artist sees this alphabet as a metaphor for the alphabets used in the library's collection.

McRight's installation, *Twist*, is located underfoot before the entrance to the recreation center. Flat, circular brass markers have been set into the concrete paving in the dynamic, lyrical pattern of a DNA double helix. Each brass marker is engraved with the letters of the DNA alphabet - T, A, C and G. These brass markers can be seen metaphorically as genetic markers.

McRight is a visual artist based in Los Angeles whose practice includes painting and sculpture as well as public art. She has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the United States. Her many public art commissions include major works at the State Capital Complex in Sacramento and at Staples Center, Los Angeles.