



Commission for Arts and Culture

FACT SHEET

Public Artwork for South Mission Beach Lifeguard Tower *Beach Castles*, 2019

About the Artwork

The site-specific work, titled *Beach Castles*, was created by Roman de Salvo for the South Mission Beach Lifeguard Tower. Completed in 2019, the artwork is located at the lifeguard tower on the south end of the beach near the Mission Bay channel. Inspired by the iconic houses that stretch along the Mission Beach boardwalk, the artwork consists of a series of ten small, concrete houses that form a semi-circular retaining wall on the east end of the building exterior. These monochrome, concrete houses are subtle in contrast to the unique, personalized dwellings along the boardwalk, and merge almost seamlessly with the sand of the beach. At times, they seem to be in the process of emerging from the sand or slowing being enveloped by it as the result of the coastal winds; sometimes the central houses stand tall, while the houses on the end are partially engulfed and obstructed and vice versa. *Beach Castles* evokes themes of resilience and safety, which refer not only to ideas embodied in the artwork itself, but also to the site and the role of the lifeguards within. There is also a playful aspect to the artwork as the houses face the Pacific Ocean, making them an unexpected discovery for beach-goers and possible inspiration for children creating beach castles of their own.

To view images of *Beach Castles* and learn more about the Civic Art Collection, visit sdcivicartcollection.com.

About the Artist

Roman de Salvo is a San Diego-based conceptual artist who works in both sculpture and installation, infusing the ordinary with surprise and poetry. Much of de Salvo's work is site-specific, and he has contributed temporary and permanent installations to the San Francisco Art Commission Gallery, inSITE'94 at the San Diego Natural History Museum, 96 Containers in Copenhagen, Caltrans District 11 Headquarters, San Diego, the New Children's Museum, San Diego, and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. His projects often transform vernacular objects into artworks of poignant humor. He has exhibited in institutions and galleries across the country and has work in several museum collections. He received his BFA from the California College of Arts and Crafts and MFA from the University of California, San Diego.

About the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture

The Commission for Arts and Culture serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council on promoting, encouraging and increasing support for the region's artistic and cultural assets, integrating arts and culture into community life and showcasing San Diego as an international tourist destination. The Commission, through its Public Art Program, promotes artistic development and transforms the built environment of San Diego's public buildings and spaces through the inclusion of public art in capital improvement projects.