



Commission for Arts and Culture

FACT SHEET

Public Artwork at Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Harley and Bessie Knox Branch Library

Climate Clocks (Abstraction Devices), 2018

About the Artwork

The site-specific artwork, titled *Climate Clocks (Abstraction Devices)*, was created by Janet Zweig for the Mission Hills-Hillcrest/Harley and Bessie Knox Branch Library. Completed in 2018, the artwork consists of three kinetic sculptures mounted to the library's interior walls. The sculptural installation is inspired in part by the artistic tradition of fore-edge painting in which decorative scenes are painted on the edges of book pages. Each sculpture, comprised of a huge wheel of paper, is mounted to the wall on a primary hub that then links to a second hub with a motor that very slowly pulls the paper onto it. Painted on the face of each wheel of paper is an image depicting a scene from San Diego's ecology, including the ocean, canyons and reservoirs. As the secondary hub accumulates the paper, each traditional landscape will unwind into a beautiful abstract image on the fore-edge of the secondary hub and figuration will become abstraction.

Each of the three sculptures functions as an ecological "clock" using scientific data to determine the rate of its rotation. The pace of the paper's transfer from one hub to the other varies for each of the sculptures. The artist worked with local scientists to determine rates of change to the ecologies depicted, including changes to local reservoirs, sea-level and canyons. Each sculpture's motor is timed to correspond with this scientific data in real-time, resulting in an artwork that is a poetic record of changes to our landscape, unraveling slowly over time.

About the Artist

Janet Zweig is a New York-based artist working primarily in the public realm. Her artworks often provide opportunities for engagement, play with notions of language and change and feature electronic media which activate the work. Her numerous public art commissions include *Prairie Logic* commissioned by the City of Kansas City, Missouri and *Carry On* commissioned by the Metropolitan Transit Authority in New York City. Zweig has been awarded the Rome Prize Fellowship, the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship for computer arts and the National Endowment for the Arts Visual Arts Fellowship twice for both sculpture and artists' books. She has received the American for the Arts Public Art Network Year in Review award a total of 11 times. Her work has been featured in various publications including *The New York Times*, *Artforum*, *Art Journal* and *Sculpture*. Zweig received a Master of Fine Arts degree from The Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester, New York and teaches at both the Rhode Island School of Design and Brown University.

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.