



Commission for Arts and Culture

FACT SHEET

Public Artwork for San Ysidro Branch Library

About the Artwork

Einar and Jamex de la Torre, who are brothers and artistic collaborators, are creating two distinct, site-specific artworks for the new San Ysidro Branch Library - one for the interior of the library and another for the building's exterior.

The interior artwork will consist of an archway which serves as both a literal and symbolic entrance to the library. The columns of the archway will be wrapped with colorful, illuminated lenticular prints drawing on themes related to San Ysidro, architecture, and the library as a source of knowledge. These densely layered and highly dynamic lenticular images will produce the illusion of depth and will change when viewed from different angles. Sitting atop the columns will be a cantera stone lintel inspired by both Spanish colonial and Mesoamerican architectural motifs.

The exterior artwork will consist of two large metal screens affixed to the north and west facades of the library. The screens, inspired by the Mexican folk art of paper-cutting and traditional Moorish screens, will complement the motifs explored on the archway. Perforated with intricate patterns, the screens will create a captivating interplay between light and shadow. At night, these screens will be lit from behind to give the work a dramatic evening presence. To view the artwork design, visit www.sandiego.gov/SYL-artwork.

About the Artists

Einar and Jamex de la Torre have created and collaborated on artwork for over twenty years. Best known for their work in glass, their artistic practice incorporates themes from high and low art, combining both historic and popular culture references in complex compositions. The work of the de la Torre brothers draws from their Mexican-American bi-cultural experiences and is recognized for its rich, immersive content.

The de la Torre brothers have completed a number of public art commissions including site-specific artworks for the San Diego International Airport, the Phoenix Convention Center and the San Diego Central Library. In addition to their public commissions, their work has been exhibited nationally and internationally including at the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Virginia; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in Los Angeles, California; the Glazenhuis – Glass Museum in Lommel, Belgium and the Glasmuseet Ebeltoft in Aarhus, Denmark. Currently, the brothers live and work on both sides of the San Diego-Baja California border, in Ensenada and 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.