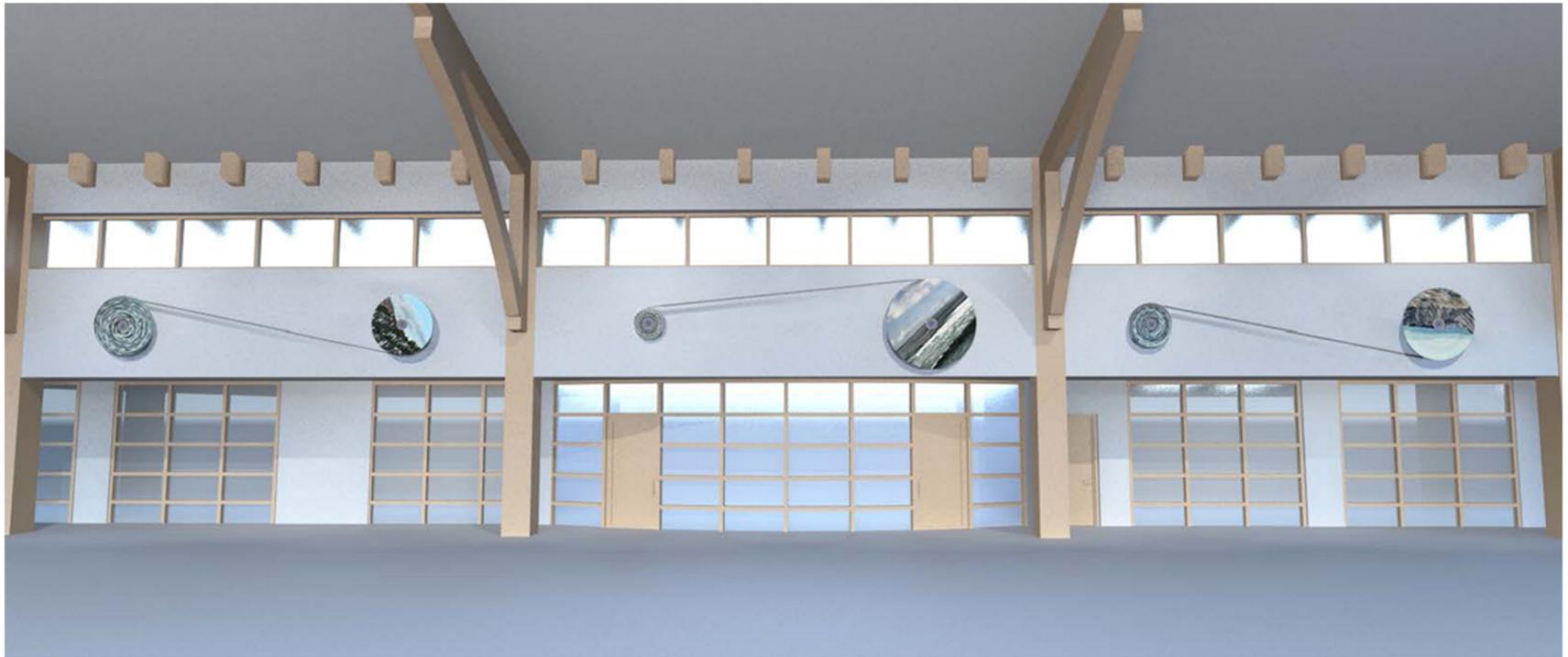


MISSION HILLS-HILLCREST BRANCH LIBRARY PUBLIC ART PROJECT

ARTWORK DESIGN

BY JANET ZWEIG



The artwork for the new Mission Hills-Hillcrest Branch Library is an installation consisting of three mechanical sculptures that will be visible when entering the library through the main entrance. Each sculpture is a large, approximately 4' diameter, roll of paper strung from a primary hub to a secondary hub. The secondary hub will contain a motor that very slowly pulls the paper off of the primary hub and onto itself, like an audio tape.



Each of the three sculptures will function as an ecological "clock." The pace of the paper's transfer from one hub to the other will vary for each of the sculptures. The artist will work with local scientists to determine rates of change to the ecologies depicted, such as changes to our reservoirs, sea-level and canyons. Each sculpture's motor will then be timed to correspond with this scientific data in real-time. The traditional nature of the painting and the mechanical elements of the installation will be scaled to hold their own visually in the context of the library's Mission-style architecture.

The rolls will be painted with landscapes on their face or "fore-edge." The artist was inspired by the 18th century artistic tradition of fore-edge painting on books. Each landscape will depict a scene from San Diego's ecology, such as the canyons, ocean and reservoirs. As the secondary hub turns and accumulates the paper, the landscape unwinds into a beautiful abstract image on the secondary hub; figuration becomes abstraction.



An example of 18th century fore-edge landscape painting on a book.



The artist is still conducting research to determine the look of the landscapes depicted.

© Janet Zweig