

Foretokens

Artist: Barbara McCarren

March 2000

Rancho Del Pueblo Golf Course / 1649 Hermocilla Way, San Jose, CA 95116 / Council District 5

ABOUT THE PROJECT



Above: Bronze cast of four leaf clover

Foretokens is a series of cast bronze amulets attached to sculptural bases placed at every tee at the Rancho Del Pueblo Golf Course.

The idea of icons of power (lucky tokens) affecting fate is a universal concept. Through discussion with golfers, McCarren discovered that many golfers follow this long tradition of superstition, carrying good luck charms with them as they golf. This practice inspired McCarren to create nine bronze talismans for the nine-hole golf course and name the project *Foretokens*.

The word “foretoken” means a sign of something to come, while “fore” is a golf term used to warn a person in the path of a ball. *Foretokens* connects these definitions through a series of amulets, a symbol of future good fortune, positioned at each of the nine teeing areas.

The nine good luck charms represent cultures from around the world including: a lucky penny, a horseshoe, a wishbone, a

four-leaf clover, a hand milagro, a scarab, a rabbit’s foot, a bat, and a Zuni bear fetish. Each of these objects has a connection to good fortune such as the milagro, a religious folk charm traditionally used for healing. McCarren chose a hand milagro because of the universality of a hand as an amulet.



Above: Bronze cast of horseshoe

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Over time, these bronze tokens have gotten shiny spots from golfers rubbing them for good luck at the tee.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Barbara McCarren is an installation artist from Venice, California. She has worked on many site related artworks such as a renovation of Pershing Square in downtown Los Angeles, Culver City City Hall, and the City of Montebello’s Transit Yard. Her local prominence includes an artwork in the permanent collection of the San Jose Museum of Art. She has received several awards over her ca-



Above: Bronze cast of Zuni bear fetish

reer such as the National Endowment for the Arts Visual Arts Fellowship and the Marvin B. Meyer Family Endowment. More about the artist may be found on the website of her dealer: www.feldmangallery.com.

ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community identity by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape. Through active community engagement, public art strives to reflect the City's diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is part of the City's Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of the Office of Economic Development. The Public Art Program was established by a 1984 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development.

For further information and photos, please contact the San José Public Art Program.

