

# Lupe the Mammoth, 2015

Artist: Greenmeme – Freyja Bardell and Brian Howe

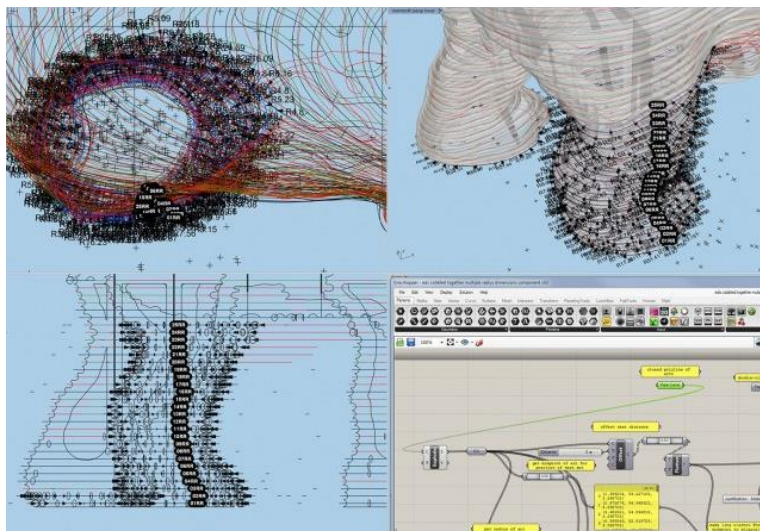
Guadalupe River Trail at Trimble Road, San Jose, CA 95131 / Council District 4

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

In July 2005, a San Jose resident took a walk with his dog along the flood channel of the Guadalupe River, just north of the San Jose Airport. It was here, near the site where the sculpture stands, that the skeleton and tusks of a mammoth, were discovered, among the eroding banks of the river. The sculpture was inspired by this discovery, and serves as a reminder that these “beasts” once roamed the Santa Clara valley.

The “Lupe” sculpture is comprised of 78 layers of bent steel pipe, stacked and welded to form a 1:1 scale adult Columbian Mammoth. The artists chose to stack bent pipe into a topographical animal form suggestive of geological stratum in which the mammoth was buried.

City trails are an important recreational and travel opportunity for many throughout the region. The trails are highlighted with many cultural, historic and nature-based moments of engagement. This sculpture provides a keen destination for travelers and is a great adjunct to the many visitors to the Children’s Discovery Museum “Lupe” exhibit, where the actual bones from the discovery are on display.



#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Greenmeme is the vision of artist Freyja Bardell and Brian Howe. Together, they have been creating site-specific public artwork since 2005. Qualities of material, context and form begin anew with each project. Their investigations into the history of both the surrounding culture and environment reveals unique ways in which each project can work to raise awareness of these qualities through sculpture, performance and community engagement. Since coming together, their work has continued to range from smaller locally-focused commissions to creating projects on national and international scale.

More about the artists may be found at [www.greenmeme.com](http://www.greenmeme.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 and experience. 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 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.

