

Oionos

Artist: Douglas Hollis

February 1998

San Jose Repertory Theater / 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose, CA 95113 / Council District 3

ABOUT THE PROJECT



Above: Detail of text on arbor.

The artwork is composed of two main elements: a 24-foot illuminated quill and a circular element which supports a perforated steel screen with cut-out text. Both the quill and the circle are supported by a 16-foot tapered mast. The quill is mounted on bearings allowing it to rotate in the wind. The structure of both elements is composed of stainless steel tubing. The artwork also features text from William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and reads "We are such stuff as dreams are made on..."

This piece celebrates language as a triumph of human ingenuity. As Douglas Hollis said, "Birds fly in air, fish swim in water and humans live in language."

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Douglas Hollis has been working in the field of public art for more than 30 years. Mr. Hollis has extensive expertise in creating large-scale artworks that are site-specific to their physical and social environment. Mr. Hollis often works with

Oionos, created by Douglas Hollis, was commissioned in association with the development of the San Jose Repertory Theater.

Oionos is a Greek name for a large mythical soaring bird, as well as a series of experimental kites designed by Alexander Graham Bell. The artwork references text, language, and writing – the tools which poets and playwrights have used throughout history. It is a metaphor for the technology of the written word and for the flight of imagination.



Above: View of arbor and quill.

simple tools, utilizing natural phenomena such as sound, wind, or water. Mr. Hollis currently lives in San Francisco. More of his work may be seen at www.douglashollis.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.