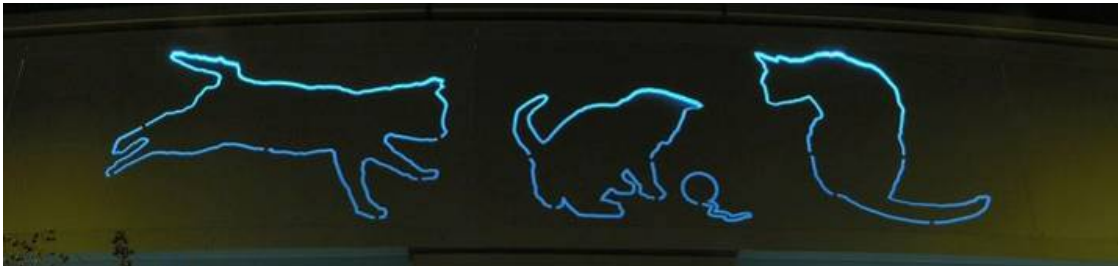


Shelter

Artist: Lewis de Soto

August 2004

San Jose Animal Care Center / 2750 Monterey Road, San Jose, CA 95111 / Council District 7



Above: Detail of the frieze lit up at night

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Shelter is a public art piece at the San Jose Animal Care Center by Lewis de Soto consisting of three parts: a frieze, sentinel statues, and a “Gallery of Myths.” This project characterizes the animal care center as a place where people nurture and interact with their beloved pets.

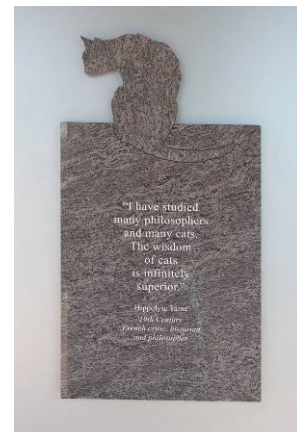
The 104 foot long aluminum frieze covers a long arc over the entrance to the center. The frieze is decorated with cutouts of cats and dogs emphasizing their curious and jovial natures. At night the frieze is lit from behind, highlighting the cutouts.

Two sentinel statues of a dog and a cat stand on either side of the entrance; heraldic figures guarding the center. These free standing engravings of granite and steel are placed upon models of the animal care center accentuating the purpose of the center as an animal care facility.

The “Gallery of Myths” is a series of eight granite tablets along the portico of the building, which describe stories, myths, or aphorisms about cats and dogs connecting humanity with the myths of pets.



Above: View of sentinel statue and entrance



Above: Detail of a granite tablet

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Lewis de Soto is a Californian artist born in Napa and currently living in San Francisco, teaching at San Francisco State University. He is an interdisciplinary artist focusing on installation, public art, sculpture, and photography. His art is often inspired by his interests of archaeology, anthropology, sociology, and world religions. While his art has been exhibited all over the world in England, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden, local public art projects include the San Francisco Civic Center Courthouse, San Francisco International Airport, and Sony Corporation Regional Headquarters of San Jose.

More of his work may be seen at www.sotolux.net

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.