

# The Spring-tailed Dalmatian

Artist: Gerald Heffernon

October 2008

Fire Station 12 / 5912 Chalan Ave. at Calero Ave., San Jose, CA 95123 / Council District 10

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Gerald Heffernon's *Spring-Tailed Dalmatian* plays on the classic image of a firehouse dog, of which Dalmatians have been a favored breed since the days of horse-drawn fire vehicles when they were used to manage the horses.

The *Spring-Tailed Dalmatian* appears to be descending a fire pole, but with a twist: the dog's tail is coiled like a spring to soften the landing. The sculpture speculates whimsically on a specialized breed of fire dog, one that is particularly well-suited for its fire station duties.

Heffernon's sculpture stands 13 feet high. It is made of painted bronze with a brass pole and decorative concrete "landing pad." An informational bronze plaque about this special breed of dog is set nearby, with a bas relief image of the dog in a standing position.



Above: the artwork in front of the Fire Station



Above: the custom plaque

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gerald Heffernon is a sculptor, painter, and writer, living in Northern California. He has created public art for many cities in California and also nationally. His art has been shown in Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Paris, Honolulu and other cities in the United States and Europe. Inspired by his own personal take on wildlife, he has been creating animal and nature-inspired sculptures and artworks for over 25 years, working in a variety of media including bronze and cast aluminum.

More information can be found on his website at [www.geraldheffernon.com](http://www.geraldheffernon.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.

