

Time Capsules

The artworks included in *Time Capsules* honor and celebrate the people and history of the Camden area, especially the spirit of Camden High School, which occupied this site for 25 years, from 1955 to 1980. Each piece captures a different aspect of life in this community in a distinctive way, representing everything from its pastoral past, to mementos of the high school, to personal perspectives gathered from present day residents.

Time Capsules is a multi faceted public art project designed and produced for the Camden Community Center by the Art in the Community class at San José State University. This collaborative venture between San José State University faculty and students and the local community is an innovative approach to public art making. The individual art installations produced for the Camden Center vary in media and concept, reflecting the diverse talents and aesthetics of a group of artists whose specialties include sculpture, photography, painting, printmaking and new media.

Camden Community Center is a "green building," and in the spirit of environmental awareness, the *Time Capsules* project was produced, whenever possible, with earth- and people-friendly materials.

This project was produced for the people who inspired the artists to create it, the Camden residents, a community full of fondness and pride for their neighborhood.

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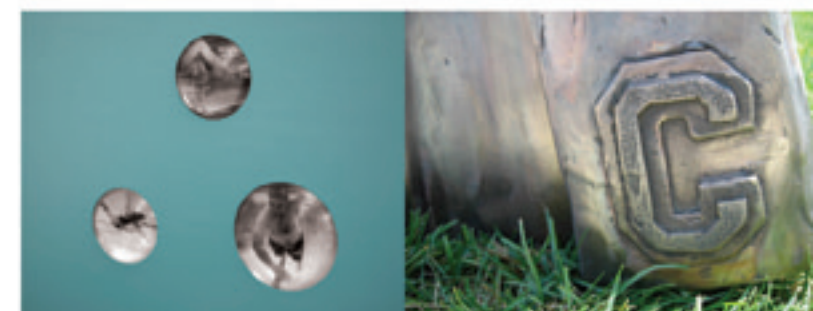
We would like to acknowledge the support of the following:

City of San José Office of Cultural Affairs
San José Arts Commission
San José State University
The San José State University Foundation
The Camden Foundation
Tom Rose
Scott Rose
Sarah Puckitt, History San José
The California Room, M. L. King, Jr. Library
Advanced Laser and Waterjet Cutting
Matt Isble, Liquid Light
V. Martinico & Sons Sheet Metal
Mercado Tile and Stone
Picture Element
RWC Digital Graphics
Jason Starling
Steve Carlson
Tile Artisans
David Torgersen Audio

And all the members of the Camden community who helped shape our project

TIME CAPSULES

Camden Community Center
City of San José Public Art Program



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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 projects strive to reflect the City's ethnic diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.



San José State
UNIVERSITY

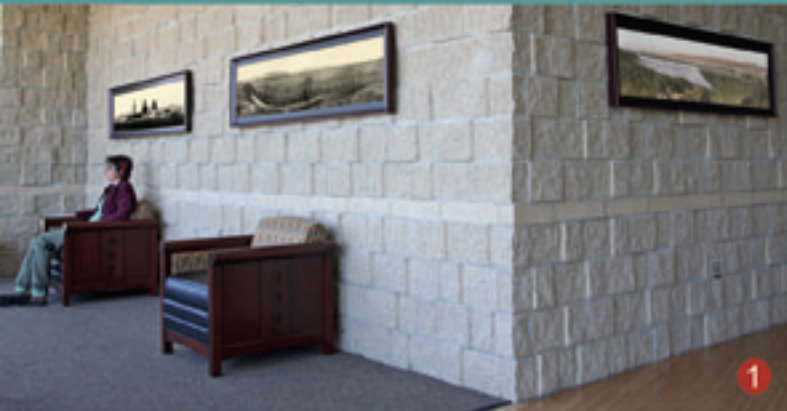
School of Art and Design

Artists:
San José State University
Art in the Community Class

2007



Camden Time Capsules



Windows into the Past

Vintage panoramic photographs of the Santa Clara Valley depict various stages of the history of land use in this area before urban development took over the landscape: ranch land for grazing livestock, the transition from ranches to mixed crop farms, and the era of vast orchards that blanketed the valley. These images were extracted from the museum archives at History San José. They are re-contextualized within the Camden Community Center, a complex that is linked to previous land use in its integration of the old Camden High School grounds and buildings. Each image has been digitally re-mastered and greatly enlarged, offering big, clear "windows into the past."



Memini: The Camden High Yearbook Timeline

25 years of Camden High School yearbook cover art are displayed in full color photographic reproductions glazed onto porcelain tiles, showing a timeline of late 20th Century design history.



Camden Connections

Using original phones from Camden High School linked to a high tech audio delivery system, *Camden Connections* offers audio samplings of past and present life in the community. Included are voices of Camden High alumni recalling memories from the high school, poetry from the Camden Youth Center, and reflections on life in this community from a local creative writing class.



Pool Bubbles

Glass lens "bubbles" hold photographs of swimmers and divers. These aquatic images span decades of pool activity, from the present day all the way back to the early years of the Camden High School Pool, which is located just outside the door to the left of this installation.



School Desks

Rooftop Prankster
The Lookout
Day Tripper
Pom-Pom Pride
Cutest Couple
Rock Star

These cast metal sculptures were inspired by a Camden High School senior class prank in which all the desks from the school were perched on the roof of the building one morning in 1977. Each school desk is an individual interpretation of typical high school personalities.



Greetings from the Past

Vintage postcards featuring the famous "sea of blossoms" and other pastoral scenes from Santa Clara Valley's agricultural past are digitally layered and merged by the process of lenticular photography. The photographs shift from the pictorial views on one side of the cards to the written notes on the other, blending historical images with voices from this community's past.



Camden High Time Capsule

This historic display encapsulates artifacts and memorabilia from Camden High School, that once occupied this site.

