

## *Wildlife of the Guadalupe River*

**ARTIST:** Nobi Nagasawa

**COMPLETED:** 2001

**SITE:** McEnery Park

**ADDRESS:** San Fernando St. at the  
Guadalupe River near Almaden  
Ave., San José, CA 95113

**COUNCIL DISTRICT:** 3

### **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The public artwork is composed of 12 sculptures that reflect the wildlife of the river. One of the main sculptures in the series, the dragonfly, is considered to be one of the most ancient species that survived from the Jurassic period. The dragonfly references the element of water, as well as the health of the river and its ecological systems.

The insects are of various sizes, heights and locations attached to posts on ball bearings that allow the sculptures to move with the wind. Sunlight creates additional interest by casting shadows through the laser cut wings and reflections off the colorful glass eyes.

The sculptures are intended to reawaken the relationship to the wind, sun, and water, fundamental elements of nature in this urban park. The sculptures also celebrate the Guadalupe River that gives life to flora and fauna and people of San José.



**ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Nobi Nagasawa is an interdisciplinary artist whose site-specific work explores the places, politics and psychological dimensions of space and people. Her work involves in depth research into the cultural history and memory, and extensive community participation. She has exhibited extensively in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the United States since 1984, and has won many international awards and grants. A native of Japan, and based in New York City since 2001, Nagasawa received her M.F.A. at Hochschule der Künste in Berlin and is also an alumnus of the California Institute of the Arts.

In the field of public art, she is a recipient of the 1997 Design Excellence Award for Architecture and Public Art, through the Cultural Affairs Office in Los Angeles. She has been commissioned for more than 20 public art project, including projects in California, Washington, Texas, New York, Berlin and Japan.

**PUBLIC ART PROJECT MANAGER:** Mary Rubin

**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 with artists, public art projects strive to reflect the City's ethnic diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is part of the City of San José 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 2% for art in City capital improvement projects, and 1% for art in eligible private development.

For further information and photos, please contact the City of San José Public Art Program.

Office of Cultural Affairs ~ Public Art Program  
365 S. Market Street, San José, CA 95113  
408.277.5144( 408.277.31607  
E-mail: [sanjosepublicartprogram@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:sanjosepublicartprogram@sanjoseca.gov)  
[http://www.sanjoseculture.org/pub\\_art](http://www.sanjoseculture.org/pub_art)

