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# THE POWER OF ONE

Artist: Richard Deutsch

November 2019

Iris Chang Park, 600 Epic Way, San José, CA 95134 / Council District 4

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## ABOUT THE PROJECT

In 2016, artist Richard Deutsch was commissioned to create a public artwork as part of developing a park in north San José named after one of America's leading young historians, Iris Chang. As a journalist and writer, Ms. Chang was known for her exhaustive research writing historical books documenting the experiences of Asians and Chinese Americans. Her work reflects a deep concern about issues of human rights and discrimination; equally important was her belief that each of us as individuals can make a difference. Before her untimely death in 2004 at the age of 36, Ms. Chang lived in the vicinity of the park.



Above: Power of One

Photo: Richard Deutsch



Above: *Ripple with Central Stone and Children Maze.*

Working in collaboration with Oakland-based landscape architects *Placeworks*, the artist/architect team created a Zen-like garden inspired by the legacy of Iris Chang. Ms. Chang's belief in the power of each of us to create change in the world through "the ripple effect" compelled the flowing forms that are foundational to the park design. Punctuating the landscape, the artist created unique sculptures featured throughout the park site and more specifically described as follows:

- *Approach Stone*, an entry marker engraved with the park's name.
- *Entry Stone* engraved with a paragraph speaking to Iris Chang's legacy.
- *History Stone* assembled from a 300 year old antique Chinese grinding mill, symbolizing Iris Chang's belief that words are important tools to reveal history and tell truths about the human condition.
- *Touch Stone* consists of two conical shaped basalt stones, symbolizes our interconnectedness and reliance on each other. This sculpture is the focal point of the semi-circular hard-scaped theater area.
- *Ripple with Central Stone* is a nearly 100-foot diameter earthwork in the form of a "ripple in a pond" with a basalt stone sculpture located its center.
- *Stele* is a stone marker to be engraved with Iris Chang's words "Power of One."
- *Children's Maze* is composed of two adjoining concrete spiraling 6" knee walls. The maze symbolizes an eddy and is intended to inspire creative play.



Above: *Entry Stone* and *History Stone*

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Richard Deutsch is a Bay Area sculptor known for his large-scale architectural and environmental projects. Conceived for a particular architectural or social context, the artist distills complex programs and rich histories, to inform his strong sculptural forms with powerful visual impact. Over his 30-year he has been the recipient of numerous awards, including fellowships from the American Academy in Rome and the National Endowment for the Arts. Deutsch lives and works in Davenport California. More about his work can be found at <http://richarddeutsch.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.