

Limonium

Artist: Mona Caron

August 2020

Convention Center / San José, CA / Council District 3

ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project is a collaboration with DOT Parking, Team San José and the Office of Councilmember Peralez. The project was approved as part of the 5-year Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Plan in 2018 by the Arts Commission and City Council. The artist drew direct inspiration from a wild herb native to the salt marsh tidal lands of the San Francisco Bay. The artist picked this wild plant from among the endemic and near-endemic indicator species of the Bay's ecological health, as a way to reconnect to the native landscape beneath the City and reassert the human connection to it. This plant was also chosen on aesthetic grounds for the wildly meandering fleshy leaves in its adult plants. Their shapes present a design opportunity to drastically impact the rectilinearity of the Convention Center space, bringing both movement and focus to that currently dispersive-feeling area.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born and raised in the wild and verdant Centovalli region of Ticino, Switzerland, Mona owes her love of botany and the natural form to her childhood's natural surroundings, and to her mother and grandmother's teachings. She mysteriously inherited her style of depicting plants from her grandfather, a botanical illustrator, even though they were never close.

Her father, theater set designer Peter Bissegger, also influenced her concern with a visual environment's influence on a viewer's emotions and vitality.

Mona briefly studied English literature at the University of Zurich before relocating to San Francisco, where she attended the Academy of Art University, graduating with honors BFA in illustration.

Through her Weeds projects, she had delved into artwork that combines painting with photography, through the creation of stop-motion mural animations and short videos.

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 and experience. 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 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.