
Reflections of Mirassou

Artist: Eric Powell

Completed June 2014

Aborn Road Median/ 3000 Aborn Road, San Jose, CA 95135 / Council District 8



ABOUT THE ARTWORK

Reflections of Mirassou was created by artist Eric Powell to commemorate the iconic Mirassou Winery and its vineyards. The artwork is comprised of two linear cut metal elements featuring imagery that echoes familiar scenery of the vineyards that used to spread across the hillsides and of the people and equipment involved in harvesting and vinting the grapes. Made of industrial grade steel treated with layers of marine grade epoxy paint, on the longer median there is a 90' long statement piece; on the second median there will be another piece 35' in length. The height of both range from 3' -6'.



The artwork is located in the median along Aborn Road, just below Heritage Oaks Avenue. It is adjacent to the site where the Mirassou Winery was located. The Mirassou Winery was founded in 1854 by the Pellier brothers in the rolling hillsides of what is now known as San José's Evergreen District, and for many years it was an icon of the agricultural heritage of the Santa Clara Valley. The Pellier family ceased vineyard and winery operations at the site in 2005 and in recent years it has been developed into housing.

Powell's *Reflections of Mirassou* captures the images of the bygone era of vineyards covering the rolling hills. The artwork was funded by Summerhill Homes as part of their development of the site.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Artist Eric Powell works primarily with steel, one of the most common and ubiquitous building materials in the modern world. He values the material for its versatility, malleability, and its decidedly alchemical properties. Steel transforms into a material as pliable as clay, which can be formed, pounded, molded, and bent into virtually any shape with the right amount of heat and force. An avid collector, he often will integrate elements of his large cache of historical steel and iron objects into his pieces and also incorporates other materials including bronze, wood and glass into his work.

Powell is well known for his large works of art that relate strongly to site and architecture. Working both on commissioned private works and public art projects, he relishes translating an idea into a large, freeform structure that can withstand strong wind loads and harsh environments. Working out the physical requirements of large-scale work presents a fascinating challenge. Powell also appreciates public art commissions for their collaborative aspect, as well as for the opportunity to design and create works of art that are lasting, permanent, accessible, and compelling for all viewers.

Powell studied sculpture and painting at California College of Arts and the University of Southern California. In 1982, he co-founded Spirit Arts Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where he created an extensive body of sculptural works. In 1989, he founded Eric Powell Studio where he produces public and private commissions and works for gallery and museum exhibitions.

Learn more about Eric Powell's vision and work at www.ericpowell.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 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 Office of Economic Development and Cultural Affairs. 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 at publicart@sanjoseca.gov.

