

Northgate Branch, Community Center, Park

The new 10,000-square-foot branch at 10548 Fifth Ave. N.E. is the 18th project completed under the “Libraries for All” building program that voters approved in 1998.

The \$6,693,570 branch library features a collection capacity of more than 40,000 new books and materials, a meeting room, study rooms, and computers for the public.

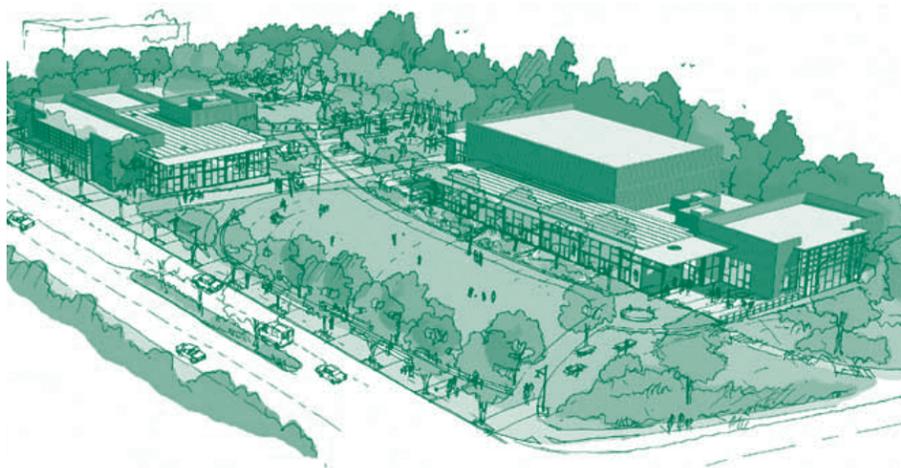
The 20,000-square-foot community center at 10510 Fifth Ave. N.E. is funded by the 1999 Community Centers Levy. The \$8.85 million community center offers activities such as teen camps, basketball leagues, classes, after-school programs, community meetings, and programs for seniors.

The 1.67-acre park is funded by the 2000 Pro Parks Levy. The \$4.8 million park helps address the open space needs of the densely developed neighborhood.

Of the \$2.1 million for street improvements for Fifth Avenue Northeast, \$1.8 million is from a federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality grant and the rest is from King County Metro Transit and the city of Seattle. Improvements include landscaped street medians, wide sidewalks, street trees and an improved crosswalk that connects the new branch, community center, and park with the Northgate Mall.

The buildings were designed by The Miller/Hull Partnership and built by Absher Construction Co. Dana Lynn Louis, Nikki McClure and Linda Wysong designed the artwork. In addition, a stone sculpture called “Transition is Unity” by artist Rita Kepner also has been installed at the site. The sculpture had been located at the old Central Library, which was demolished to make way for a new building. The Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs manages the city’s public art program.

The branch, community center and park opened to the public Saturday, July 15, 2006.



Artwork resources

Dana Lynn Louis

Articles

Kangas, M. “Dana Lynn Louis: Laura Russo Gallery.” *Sculpture*, (Washington, D.C.) v. 21 no. 2 (March 2002) p. 71-2

Web sites

4culture Artist Registry - <http://www.4culture.org/publicart/registry/sites>

Multnomah County Library - <http://www.multcolib.org/kids/tour/arttree.html>

Artlex on Installation Art - <http://www.artlex.com/ArtLex/ij/installation.html>

Books on Installation Art

“Understanding Installation Art: From Duchamp to Holzer.” Rosenthal, Mark (Mark Lawrence). Prestel, 2003. 709.04 R7277U 2003

“Art and the Power of Placement.” Newhouse, Victoria. Monacelli Press, 2005. 707.5 N459A 2005

“Installation Art in the New Millennium: The Empire of the Senses.” De Oliveira, Nicolas. Thames & Hudson, c2003. 709.04074 D3402i 2003

“From Margin to Center: The Spaces of Installation Art.” Reiss, Julie H. MIT Press, c1999. 709.04074 R2782F 1999

Nikki McClure

Web sites

Nikki McClure - <http://www.nikkimcclure.com>

Better South Sound - <http://www.bettersouthsound.org>

Conmigo - James F. Holly Rare Books Collection at Evergreen State College, <http://www.evergreen.edu/library/rarebooks/conmigo.html>

Wishes and Dreams: Nikki McClure, <http://www.justbedesign.com/JBD03/compound>

Books on Paper Cutting

“Traditional Jewish Papercuts: An Inner World of Art and Symbol.” Shadur, Joseph and Shadur, Yehudit. Hanover: University Press of New England, c2002. 736.98089 Sh12T 2002

“The Book of Paper Cutting: A Complete Guide to All the Techniques With More Than 100 Project Ideas.” Rich, Chris. Sterling, 1994. 736.98 RICH 1993

“Silhouettes: Rediscovering the Lost Art: A Step-by-Step Guide to the Art of Silhouette Portraiture.” Flocken, Kathryn K. PaperPortraits.com Press, 2000. 741.7 F651S

Linda Wysong

Web sites

On the Road ... Artist Info, <http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/arts>

Linda Wysong: Artist Biography and Portfolio, <http://artistsregister.com>

Books on Installation Art

“The Street-Smart Naturalist: Field Notes From Seattle.” Williams, David B. WestWinds Press, c2005. 508.79777 W6712S 2005

“The Big Book of Bird Houses and Bird Feeders: How to Build Unique Bird Houses, Bird Feeders and Bird Baths from the Purely Practical to the Simply Outrageous.” Schoonmaker, David. Sterling, 2004. 690.8927 B6575B 2004

“New Media in Late 20th-Century Art.” Rush, Michael. Thames & Hudson, 1999. 709.045 R8945N 1999

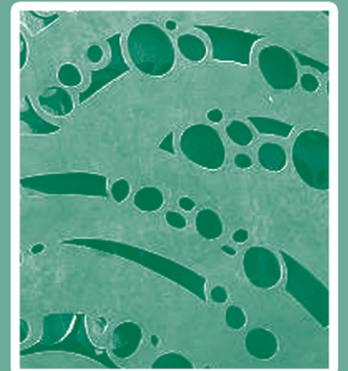
“Blurring the Boundaries: Installation Art, 1969-1996.” Davies, Hugh Marlais. Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, c1997. 709.04 BLURRIN 1997

Art Guide

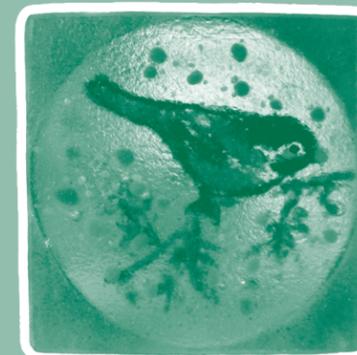
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Dana Lynn Louis



Nikki McClure



Linda Wysong

Artwork description

Three artists working for three city departments each have created unique artwork for different parts of the Northgate site.

For The Seattle Public Library, Dana Lynn Louis created “Circulation,” a vertical installation of colored circles of glass fused onto glass panels. It is integrated into the book drop at the plaza entry to the branch. Conceptually, the piece refers to the collection, digestion and dissemination of knowledge that occurs daily at the library.

For Seattle Parks and Recreation, Nikki McClure created “The Eddy,” a series of blue-gray metal waves inset with colored glass bubbles. “The Eddy,” which is in the plaza, rises out of the back of a concrete wall that curves toward the entrance of the community center. It is back-lit so it is visible at night. “The Eddy” creates a place of rest on a site with many uses.

For the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), Linda Wysong created a connection to nature with “Perch.” The art elements include 12 glass blocks that depict Wysong’s interpretation of a black-capped chickadee, three brightly colored steel birdhouse sculptures and two resting places made of hammered copper tree forms. The blocks are embedded in the sidewalk along Fifth Avenue Northeast. The birdhouses and resting places are on the pedestrian path on the slope south of the community center along Northeast 105th Street.



Nikki McClure, “The Eddy,” 2006

Special thanks to:

- **1% for Art Program** funding through the Library, Parks and SDOT.
- **The Seattle Public Library Foundation** for donating additional funding for the glasswork by Dana Lynn Louis.
- **Wallace Grantor Trust**, which contributed funding in memory of M. Marvin Wallace for the third birdhouse designed by Linda Wysong.



Linda Wysong, “Perch,” 2006

Artists’ inspiration

Dana Lynn Louis: I enjoy enhancing environments by highlighting the energy of a place – pulling viewers around a corner or across a street, inviting them to look at space in a new way, and creating relationships between interiors and exteriors, between our bodies and our environment, between our unique senses of self and our interconnectedness with all. One of my inspirations came from a trip that I took to Timbuktu, Mali. There I visited a library that houses some of the oldest manuscripts in the world. It was amazing to see the illustrations and writings in so many languages. Even though the languages were foreign to me, many of the concepts and illustrations were familiar.

Nikki McClure: Nearby Thornton Creek is in Seattle’s largest watershed, where many small creeks come together throughout Northgate. The community center also brings people together. The plaza will have many streams of people flowing across it, between the community center, library, park, playground and daycare. People will be criss-crossing the space. How to get all these disparate paths to meet? Create an eddy, a place where the current flows downstream from the parking lot and into the plaza, where it spins off and creates a place of rest.

Linda Wysong: “Perch” honors the built and natural environments. It aims to celebrate both the vital energy of the city and a connection to nature. It addresses the tightly intertwined relationship between human patterns and the contours of the natural environment by focusing on the black-capped chickadee, a bird native to the area. This lively little bird is not rare or endangered. It is a hardy urban resident that is a symbol of mutual adaptation.

About the artists

Dana Lynn Louis, Portland, Ore.

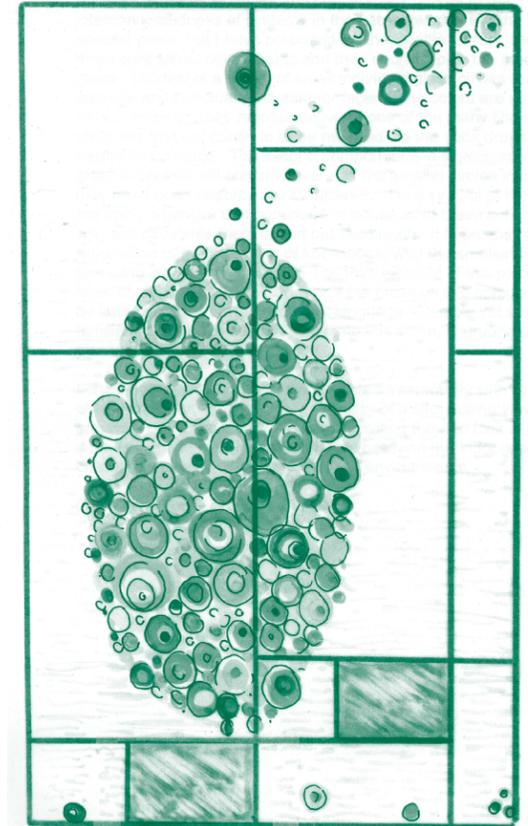
Louis’ work includes large-scale outdoor work, indoor installations, individual objects, drawings and prints. For the last 12 years she has worked collaboratively with artists, engineers, architects and community members. Louis considers public art an opportunity to acknowledge the interconnectedness of art in our daily lives. Examples of Louis’ work include ceramic and glass tiles and glass vessels that she created for the men’s and women’s restrooms at the Portland Convention Center, a kaleidoscopic glass drawing for the façade of the new facility at Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital in Tacoma and a glass and metal wall in a fire station in Portland.

Nikki McClure, Olympia, Wash.

A self-taught artist, McClure primarily makes papercuts, cutting each image from a single sheet of paper. She publishes her own calendars and books, which are distributed worldwide. She is currently making two books for Sasquatch Books due out in fall 2006 and a monograph to be published by Rizzoli. She has shown her work nationally and internationally, including in Seattle, Brooklyn, Tokyo and Sweden. McClure has received public art commissions from the cities of Seattle and Olympia under their Emerging Public Artist programs. She aims to craft environments in which to rest and observe the busy world.

Linda Wysong, Portland, Ore.

Wysong is an interdisciplinary visual artist known for her thoughtful examination of our contemporary lives. She strives to create opportunities to “re-see” the everyday in a new and revealing manner. She has shown her work nationally and internationally, including in New York, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Rotterdam, and throughout the Pacific Northwest. Wysong has participated in numerous design teams and has public art installations along the Springwater Corridor and the Interstate MAX Line in Portland.



Dana Lynn Louis, “Circulation,” 2006