

Organic Reunion Public Art Project Fact Sheet



City of Tempe
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Photo: Craig Smith

Title: Organic Reunion

Location: Tempe City Hall

Artists: Lyle London

Completion: 1991

Medium: Scrap metal from remnants of the Ash Avenue Bridge

Description: This freestanding sculpture is made entirely from scrap metal from the former Ash Avenue Bridge. The metal has been allowed to rust, adding a warm finish. It is located near Tempe City Hall.

Funding: The project was funded through city of Tempe Capital Improvement Project Percent for Art funds.

Artist biography: Lyle London studied with sculptor Varujan Boghosian and numerous visiting artists (Larry Zox, Dimitri Hadzi, Robert Indiana, Jack Zajac and others) at Dartmouth College in the late 1960's. Zajac's style of biomorphic abstraction has had a lasting influence on his work. After several years of carving stone and practical experience in the art bronze foundry, he began working primarily in metal. The intimate scale and pronounced formalism of earlier cast bronze pieces have given way to an increasing body of large scale commissioned works mostly in copper and stainless steel. Another important change in London's work has come from incorporating a greater sense of spontaneity and fluidity through the use of high-tech fabrication techniques. Sculptures integrating water features and kinetic motion have appeared since 1985.

Artist statement: I composed the sculpture, which is a pure abstraction from steel scrap recovered from the old Ash Avenue Bridge over the Salt River that was demolished in 1994, thus the title "Organic Reunion." The piece was exhibited in a show titled "Pieces of Ash" at the Tempe Fine Art Center and included several other pieces constructed of the bridge remnants, as well.