

Alta Mira

Art in Private Development Fact Sheet



City of Tempe
Cultural Services
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Photo: Craig Smith

Artwork

The Offering

Development

Alta Mira

Address

1825 E. Warner Road

Artist

Gerry Metz

Completion

1997

Material

Steel

Description: This commission, a two-dimensional sculpture, is located at the entrance to a commercial complex at Warner Road and McClintock Drive. The piece is 24- x 9-feet.

Funding: This project was funded by the individual developer as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.

Artist biography: As a painter and sculptor, Metz uses a realist style to explore subjects relating to the Old West. He grew up in Chicago where he received his art training. He settled in Scottsdale in 1971. His work is included in many collections in Arizona including those of Valley National Bank and of the Wrigley Mansion. He has exhibited in the Biltmore Celebrity Show in Los Angeles, the Governors' Invitational in Cheyenne, Wyo., and the Peppertree Americana in Santa Ynez, Calif.

Artist's process: Metz paints from the heart, capturing historical scenes with a clarity and presence that dates back to the mid 1800's to the time of the mountain men, the pioneers and the cattlemen who gave our country its foundation. Sometimes departing from these themes that his collectors have come to expect, Metz also enjoys painting florals, fly fishing scenes and landscapes, which have also captured a wide following. All of these subjects underscore his free spirit and his continuing enjoyment of the outdoors. By riding into wilderness area on horseback, snow-shoeing in the high country in winter and observing the different qualities of air and the resonance of light, Metz is better able to imagine what the people in his paintings might have experienced. This essence of realism and the great emotional range that they span, captures for all the true Spirit of the West.