

# Centerpoint II

## Art in Private Development Fact Sheet



City of Tempe  
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Photo: Craig Smith

### Artwork

*Three Black Tail Rabbits*

### Development

Centerpoint II

### Address

700 S. Mill Ave.

### Artist

Mark Rossi

### Completion

1992

### Material

Steel

**Description:** The site-specific sculpture, based on the natural history of the Phoenix Salt River Valley, incorporates the artist's love for the Southwest (where the Blacktail Jackrabbit is an indigenous element of the environment) with his knowledge of bronze. The outcome was an installation of three cast bronze Blacktail Jackrabbits, standing 8-, 12- and 14-feet high and weighing between 1,000 and 1,500 pounds each. Blacktail jackrabbits are a common sight in Arizona and are native to the desert surrounding the cities. In this sculpture, Mark Rossi shows three colossal jackrabbits in natural poses around a large fountain. These jackrabbits are called the Restful Rabbit, the Guard Rabbit and the Groomer Rabbit because of their poses.

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

**Artist biography:** Mark Rossi was born in Denver, Colo., but the family moved to Tulsa, Okla., where Mark's father was director of the Gilcrease Museum. His love for the Southwest was nurtured by his mother's Apache, Pueblo and Spanish New Mexican heritage. His parents inspired his love for nature and art at an early age. As early as 10 years old, he began to observe his father in his studio and foundry. Between his father's work and all of the influences which the Gilcrease gave to him, it would have been difficult to escape the force of art. He went on to study fine art at the University of Tulsa and the University of Arizona.

**Artist Statement:** "Although my work is realistic, I'm not interested in sculpting copies of nature. I've become more relaxed and learned to let the materials show me what they can do. I want to allow the form to emerge from the clay and metal. Cast bronze is an extremely plastic and durable medium to work with." Mark continues his observation and exploration of the natural desert habitat and its creatures. His work is a combination of scientific study and aesthetic involvement in the surrounding environment.