



# Neighborhood Art

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## ***Chasing Zoe; I am; I am Annex***

John Randall Nelson

Steel and ceramic tile

1998, 2001, 2012

**Location:** Date Palm Manor  
Neighborhood Mill Avenue and  
Broadway Road

**Artist Website:** [www.whonelson.com](http://www.whonelson.com)

**Description:** Each of the two entrances into the historic Date Palm Manor neighborhood works as a visual marker that mirrors the other. This project was completed in three phases. The first, *Chasing Zoe* (on Mill Avenue), was funded by the neighborhood in 1998. The second marker, *I am* (on Broadway Road) was created to extend the neighborhood's gateway project in 2001. The last phase, *I am Annex* (on Broadway Road) was added in 2012 and continues the theme of the first two phases. This piece consists of attached steel cutouts that run along the wall like a series of stills from a film clip. As the figure progresses down the wall, it "morphs" into a bird, turns the corner into the alley and flies away – a metaphor implying the shifting nature of the self (identity) and touching on the transitory nature of life (individually and communally). Stories also are printed on colored ceramic tile with a ceramic slip. Rather than putting the tiles up in their entirety, they are broken into fragments so that the viewer can catch a glimpse of the residents' lives.

**Artist biography:** Nelson lives and works in Tempe and received his Master of Fine Arts degree from Arizona State University. As an illustrator, painter and sculptor he has seen his mixed media illustrations appear frequently in publications like *The New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*. His paintings and sculptures have been featured in numerous solo and group shows, including Gallery Materia in Scottsdale, the Carter Center at Emory University and the Tamarind Institute in Albuquerque, N.M. In addition, his work is collected by both public and corporate entities, including the Intel and Perrier corporations. He has completed commissions for the National Endowment for the Arts, the United States Postal Service and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. He has many other public pieces in the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

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