



Tempe Public Art



Photo by: Sean Deckert

platFORM

Liz Graves & Rowdy Durham
Los Cactus Bailarines

Concrete and steel

2013

Location: 119 S. Mill Ave.
Platform at Hayden Flour Mill

Description: The ideas that led to *Los Cactus Bailarines* developed after the artists collaborated on a project in their Sculptures class at ASU. Initially, the design was simply a single abstract interpretation of a saguaro cactus, but after Liz Graves and Rowdy Durham received feedback from the professor and fellow architecture students, they decided that two sculptures would be much more dynamic. The cacti were designed to appear as though they are dancing and having a good time, which relates to the lively atmosphere along Mill Avenue. The ability to mold concrete to any shape desired makes it a frequently used material for architects and influenced the artists' design process. Because the Spanish are known for their romantic language and beautiful dancing, the title, *Los Cactus Bailarines*, encourages viewers to associate likewise with the sculpture.

Artist biographies: Durham is an Architecture student from Texas, currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Architecture from Arizona State University. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture from The University of Texas at Arlington in 2010. Though his main focus has been predominantly architecture, the platFORM project has exposed him to a new view of art and architecture. After completing the Master's Degree program in the spring of 2014, Durham will seek a career in art and architecture in the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, area.

Graves is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Architecture from Arizona State University. In 2005 she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Interior Design from the Art Center Design College in Tucson. The platFORM project gave Graves the opportunity to combine her love of art with construction building methods typical of architecture. This early experience of creating public art has inspired her to work on new designs for future projects. Once she completes the Master's Degree program in the spring of 2014, Graves plans to remain in Phoenix and engage in a career in art and architecture.

Funding: This project was funded through the city of Tempe Municipal Arts Fund and administered through the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission. www.tempe.gov/platFORM