

# Tempe City Hall Bicycle Locker Public Art Project Fact Sheet



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**Title:** Bicycle Locker

**Location:** Tempe City Hall

**Artists:** Jenny Kilb

**Completion:** 1997

**Medium:** Brushed aluminum, painted steel

Photo: Craig Smith

**Description:** The bicycle locker is rectangular in shape. Two sides are 90 by 48 inches and made of brushed aluminum. The two shorter sides are 39 by 48 inches and composed of steel. The top surface is 39 by 90 inches. The locker depicts two figures: a sleeping biker draped in a Mexican blanket and watched over by her bike, and the Pied Piper of Bicycles. The background is the red rock of the Southwest and is depicted with cactus and Palo Verde.

**Funding:** The project was funded through city of Tempe Capital Improvement Project Percent for Art funds made available through the Tempe Transit Tax.

**Artist biography:** Jenny Kilb is a painter, photographer and author. Her books include *Pilgrim* and the sequel, *Pilgrim Fool*. She has been photographing and painting the Southwest since the 1970s. She began writing in 1995, studying with the late Beat Generation novelist Alan Harrington. Kilb's work has been exhibited and collected nationally and internationally.

**Artist statement:** When I first saw these two lockers, the lush vegetation in this location reminded me of the paintings of Henri Rousseau, a French primitive painter. Most people are familiar with at least some of his works and, having enjoyed the sense of whimsy I noticed in several of Tempe's public art pieces, I decided to parody two of his more well-known images, *The Sleeping Gypsy*, and *The Snake Charmer*. The bicycles depicted acquire eyes and semi-smiles as a suggestion of an anthropomorphic enchantment, an evocation of fairy tales and folklore. The jungle plants of Rousseau become cactus and Palo Verde.