

# Greetings From Tempe Public Art Project Fact Sheet



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Photo: Craig Smith

**Title:** Greetings From Tempe

**Location:** Relocated in 2002 from the Plazita de Descanso east of Mill Avenue, north of 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 6<sup>th</sup> Street Park, near Tempe City Hall.

**Artist:** Susan T. Gamble

**Completion:** 1995

**Medium:** A "skin" of individually crafted and glazed ceramic tiles and broken commercial tile is affixed to a skeleton of cement board and rebar.

**Description:** This sculpture was one of five small, permanent "Downtown Mini-Monuments" undertaken in 1993 by the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission. The outdoor mini-monuments are located along Mill Avenue and were commissioned to enhance and add sparkle to Tempe's 120-acre redeveloped downtown. The artists were invited to select a site for their work in the downtown area where their mini-monument would be visible to the public. "Greetings from Tempe" is a picture postcard stand where people are welcome—and even encouraged—to sit or stand next to the artwork and have their picture taken, creating a homemade picture postcard. The postcard can be kept as memorabilia or stamped and sent away to friends or relatives. The phrase "greetings from Tempe" is part of the sculpture and is visible in the picture postcard. The combination of custom-made tiles and broken tiles was used in a mosaic form to create patterns of color and images of desert flora on the front and birds on the back.

**Funding:** The project was funded through city of Tempe Capital Improvement Project Percent for Art funds.

**Artist biography:** Susan T. Gamble is a ceramic artist who received her BFA from the University of Arizona and her MFA from California State University in Long Beach. Major commissions include public art projects in the Santa Cruz River Park, the Tucson Airport and New York City. She has exhibited extensively in California, Massachusetts and Arizona. She has taught and lectured in Arizona and California. Gamble currently runs a ceramic studio in Tucson.

**Artist statement:** The postcard greeting written in tile on a permanent photo-stand is where I imagine tourists, ASU students and parents, as well as locals posing individually and in groups for souvenir snapshots commemorating a special time or event—or maybe just a colorful greeting to send to loved ones far away.