Tempe Public Art

Desert Shards

Linda Haworth

Laser cut steel, paint, concrete
and etched granite

2001

Location: Tempe Library Complex
3500 S. Rural Road

Artist Website: www.haworthstudio.com

Description: Four steel panels measuring 4- x 8-feet depict images from the desert's night sky. One screen, comprised of two panels painted purple, portrays yucca moths pollinating yucca plants in the moonlight. The other screen, painted orange, shows night blooming cereus cacti. Haworth reached out to the community to help determine what residents wanted in a successful transit center. She focused on increasing the amount of shade with the angle of the roof, as well as incorporating the concept of shade using desert imagery. The granite cubes designed for seating have been etched with quotes about the desert by authors from 1904 to 2001. Images of ancient pottery and other desert botanical illustrations also are etched into the granite cubes. For the surrounding landscaping, the artist requested that mesquite trees for shade and desert verbena ground cover be included to tie in with the theme. Through artist designed transit shelters, Tempe's goal is to encourage the use of public transportation by making these shelters attractive, innovative and functional.

Artist biography: Haworth was born in Patagonia and raised just north in Tucson. She studied art at the University of Arizona and later received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Ceramics from Northern Arizona University in 1982. She has worked full time in public art, clay, pottery and sculpture for 28 years. Haworth has completed four public art installations in Tucson and two bus stops in Tempe. Haworth lives and works in Hillsboro, Ore. She has completed two light rail stations for the city of Portland, as well as installed cast glass sculpture for a Seattle Public Library and the city of Hillsboro's Civic Center.

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