

# Seven for Seven Trees

Artist: Roman de Salvo

2011

Seven Trees Community Center / 3590 Cas Dr., San Jose, CA 95111 / Council District 7



Above: Original Stone Pine at 7 Trees. Now the shade support.

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Roman de Salvo considers himself a sculptor, but to be more specific, a conceptual artist who works well with his hands. As a sculptor, conceptual and installation artist, he works with the ordinary and familiar in an infusion of surprise, intrigue, and visual poetry. He makes generic and vernacular objects into peculiar and often humorous sculptures. He finds use or reuse of natural elements



Above: Spring Rider

a creative inspiration in his artwork, particularly with elements that are linked to the artwork site. In his design for the Seven Trees public art, an Italian stone pine from the site becomes the centerpiece of the artwork, which is also the focal point of the recreational area. Around the tree he created a number of creative play elements for children of all ages: Spring Riders, Woodpecker Poles, and even an Insect Maze. Overall there are seven different play elements. Each of the pieces is created from individual trees, referencing the neighborhood's longstanding Seven Trees identity.

All the trees used for this project were sourced from projects where they were already scheduled for removal – reinforcing the overall building identity as environmentally friendly. The conversion from tree to play element is evident with each piece, enlivening ordinary types of playground equipment with ingenuity and individuality so that these interactive objects will be engaging and memorable as sculpture.



Above: See-saw

In his discussions with the community he heard about the desire for a place that is as interesting to watch as it is to physically interact. Many in the community, including seniors and families, were interested in an art project that is engaging for all ages. The nearby picnic tables make this project a center piece for gatherings for the library and community center.

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

San Diego-based artist Roman de Salvo received a BFA from the California College of Arts and Crafts, Oakland, CA and an MFA from the University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA. He is an accomplished artist with significant public commissions, site-specific interventions, and an extensive exhibition history including the Whitney Biennial (2000), Musée d'Art Américain, Giverny (2000), the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (1998, 2001, 2006), and the Public Art Fund in New York (2003). His works regularly provide varied means of physical and intellectual engagement, provoking amusement, irony, and critical examination from the viewer. More about the artist can be found on his website at [www.romandesalvo.com](http://www.romandesalvo.com).

#### **ABOUT THE PUBLIC ART PROJECT**

The City of San José Public Art Program seeks to build community identity by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape. Through active community engagement, public art strives to reflect the City's diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is part of the City's Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of the Office of Economic Development. The Public Art Program was established by a 1984 municipal ordinance that provides public art through funding from City capital improvement projects and eligible private development.

For further information and photos, please contact the San José Public Art Program.