

# EL PASO PUBLIC ART TOUR



# MEN OF COMPANY E MEMORIAL

Julio Sanchez de Alba

Location: 4321 Delta Dr. (See map page 16)

Bronze & Granite Sculpture, 2008

## ABOUT THE WORK

*The Men of Company E Memorial* is a bronze bas relief monument honoring a group of young Mexican-American Soldiers of El Paso who were sent to Southern Italy on a tragic mission to cross the Rapido River on the night of January 21, 1944. During WWII, the river was heavily fortified by the German Army, making it what some historians describe as one of the insurmountable missions in World War II. Tragically, the Men of Company E, 141st Infantry, 36th Division, whom many now refer to as the *Fallen Sons of El Paso*, were killed in the attempt to cross a waterway saturated with barbed wire, mines, and artillery.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in La Paz, Bolivia, bronze sculptor Julio Sanchez de Alba immigrated to the United States in 1980, finding a home in El Paso, Texas. As a self-taught artist for nearly a decade, Sanchez has been known for his classical approach and fine attention to detail. His sculptures have been exhibited nationwide, including the Holland & Holland Gallery in New York City and the Wyland Fine Art Gallery, Epcot Center in Orlando, Florida. Now recognized as one of El Paso's most accomplished bronze artists, it was with great pleasure that the City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department selected Julio Sanchez de Alba for his first Public Art Commission to commemorate the Men of Company E, 141st Infantry, 36th Division.



## LOS LAGARTOS (THE ALLIGATORS)

Luis Jimenez (1940-2007)  
Location: Downtown, San Jacinto Plaza  
(See map page 16)  
Fiberglass Sculpture, 1993



### ABOUT THE WORK

*Los Lagartos (The Alligators)*, is a playful grouping paying homage to the live alligators that were once kept in a specially gated artificial lagoon in the middle of San Jacinto Plaza. Moved to the El Paso Zoo in the late 1950s, the alligators were a favorite among many El Pasoans, including the young Jimenez who often visited on Saturday afternoons.



### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Nationally celebrated El Paso artist Luis Jimenez is best known for large-scale fiberglass sculptures. The son of an immigrant, Jimenez's work often gravitates to the political—embracing Southwestern imagery, Chicano themes and questioning long-held beliefs about American history, power and entitlement. Although El Paso serves as one of the largest repositories of his work, Jimenez's art can be found in collections throughout the United States, most prominently installed outside the Smithsonian Museum of American Art/National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C.



## REGENERATION

Mitsu Overstreet

Location: Alberta Ave. & Reynolds St.

(See map page 16)

Mural, 2008

### ABOUT THE WORK

*Regeneration* is a look at the elements involved in natural and faith healing in traditional Mexican and Indigenous culture. Beginning with detailed sketches of plants such as the Prickly Pear Cactus, Overstreet pulls details into an abstracted composition. Overstreet's work is a convergence of imagination, movement and whimsy into a dynamic asymmetrical work that is intended to evoke reflection by the viewer.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

A native to El Paso, contemporary graphic artist Mitsu Overstreet has worked with murals for over 20 years. He draws inspiration from community driven themes and historical solutions, which he has learned and developed from his professional career and education at the California College of Arts and Crafts in San Francisco.

In 2005, Overstreet was recognized for his work in an Aerosol contest sponsored by RedBull USA and Viacom, where his design was displayed on a billboard in celebration of Cinco de Mayo.





## REMEMBRANCE CRIME VICTIMS MEMORIAL READING GARDEN

Ken Bernstein

Location: 610 N. Yarbrough

(See map page 16)

Concrete & Granite Sculpture, 2009

### ABOUT THE WORK

The Crime Victims Memorial Reading Garden, titled *Remembrance*, is dedicated to those who have died through acts of violence. Walking along the spiral pathways, one is led to a place of remembrance. The sculptural pavilion consists of two concrete walls connected by a steel roof structure that has the appearance of an abstract wing or a butterfly. As a result, the memorial offers a sense of transformation and of taking flight, but it also conveys the somber quality of death's final statement. Four 8' diameter polished black granite discs, two on each wall, hold the engraved names of those who have died. *Remembrance* is a place for the living and a dedication to those who have left us too soon.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ken Bernstein received a B.A. in Fine Arts from the University of Colorado in 1975. He has worked as a professional artist in Colorado for more than 20 years. His murals, mosaics, and paintings have been chosen as art in public places and are in private and corporate collections both nationally and internationally. He is a member of the Artist Design Resource Team for the Art in Public Places Program in Loveland, CO, and has received grants from the Arts and Humanities of Boulder, the Boulder Arts Commission, the Colorado Council on the Arts, and the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District. He takes a classical approach to drawing that includes anatomy, technique, and observation. He combines science and art with demonstrations and encouragement.

## TWO MOUNTAINS

Janet Lofquist

Location: 7968 San Paulo Dr.

(See map page 16)

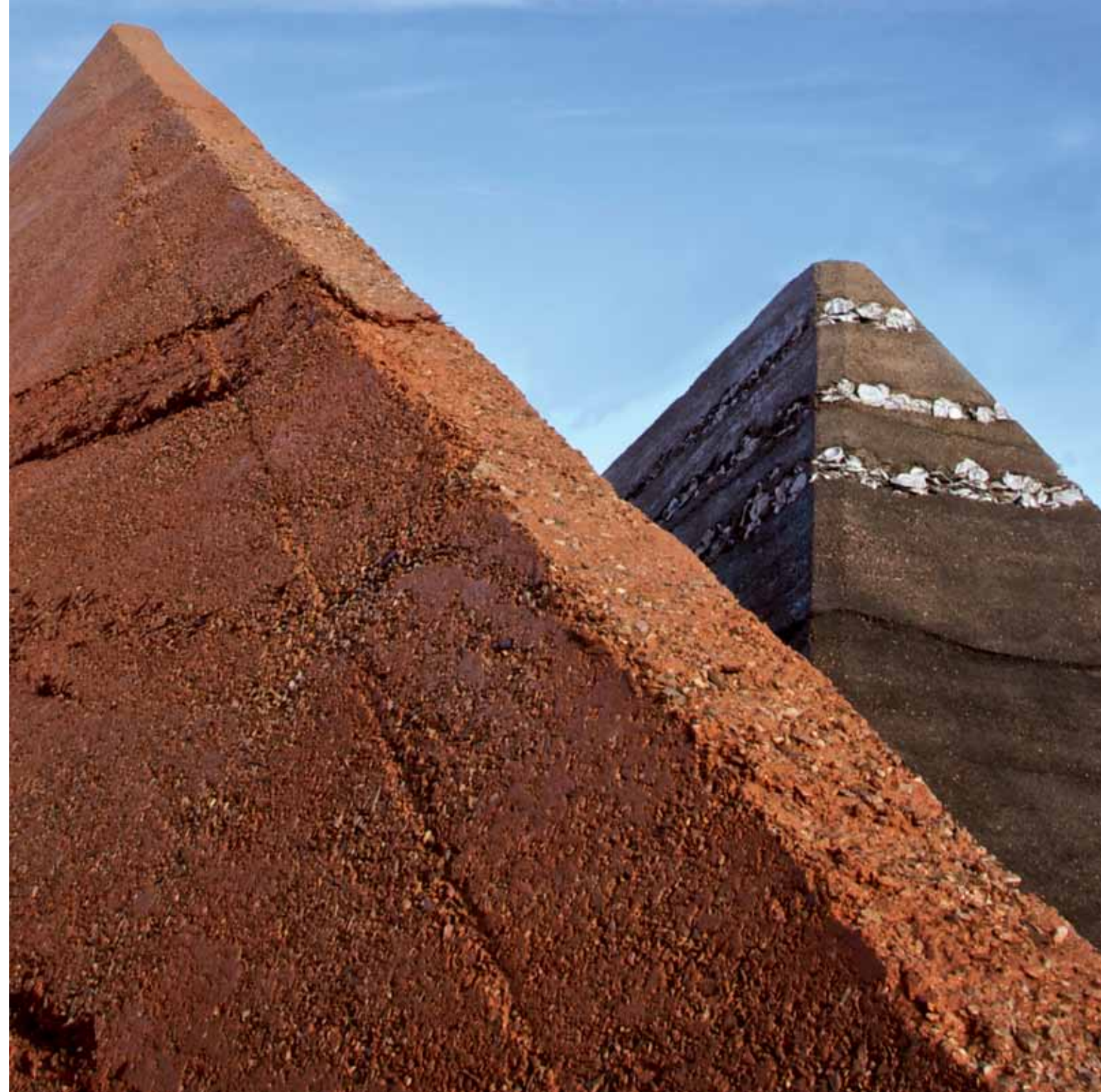
Rammed Earth Sculpture, 2009

### ABOUT THE WORK

Inspired by the Franklin Mountain range, *Two Mountains* consists of two sculptural elements composed of locally sourced material. Layered into the striations of pigmented earth are recycled materials that have a significant impact on our environment. Using crushed aluminum beverage cans from the City's recycling program and shredded rubber from automotive tires this work suggests our relationship with the environment.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Renowned sculptor and installation artist Janet Lofquist received a B.F.A from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Lofquist has been involved in a number of public art projects nationwide with permanent artworks installed throughout Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, and Iowa. Lofquist draws inspiration from layered histories, including cultural, geographical or geological characteristics, all of which add resonance to any given site.





## SKY BOULDER

Willie Ray Parish  
Location: Harrison & Alabama  
(See map page 16)  
Steel Sculptures, 2009

### ABOUT THE WORK

Transforming what was once a drainage dam into a sculptural landscape, Sky Boulder Park brings together 5 abstract elements: *Sky Boulder*, *Hepgrind*, *Mogul*, *Divider*, and *Ballustrade*.

*Sky Boulder* serves as a metaphor for the tenuous state of the earth as it hangs in an environmental balance. As the largest and most dramatic sculpture in the park, it is to serve as a magnet for visitors onto the site.

*Mogul*, *Hepgrind*, *Divider*, and *Ballustrade* were all designed to inspire the creativity and art of local skateboarders. Marks left by the public, including skaters, are intended to alter and gradually transform the patina of the sculptures.

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

El Paso artist Willie Ray Parish received a B.A. in Fine Arts from the University of Mississippi and a Masters in Fine Arts from the Otis Art Institute of Los Angeles. As a metal and wood sculptor, his work has been exhibited nationwide, gaining highly regarded recognition. Parish is currently a sculpture professor at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and is founder and Director of the Border Art Residency, a foundation supporting art and artists in La Union, NM.



## CONFLUENCIA

Cynthia Patterson & Hank Saxe  
Location: 601 S. Santa Fe  
(See map page 16)  
Steel & Glass Sculpture, 2009



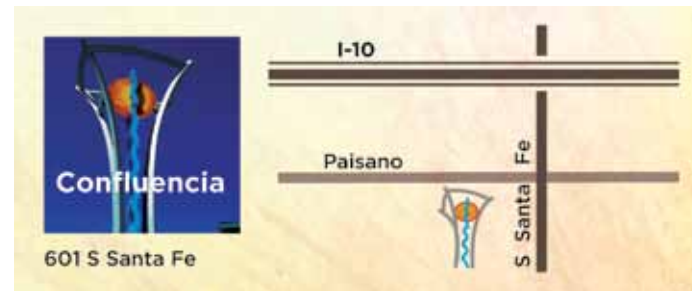
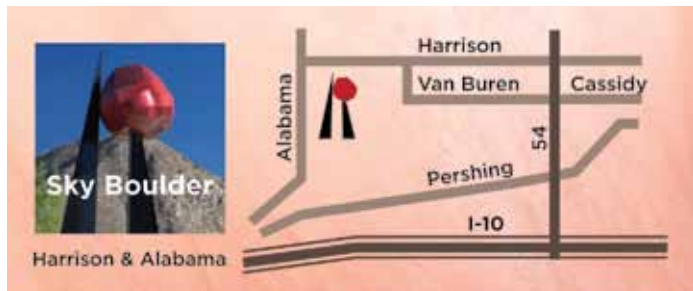
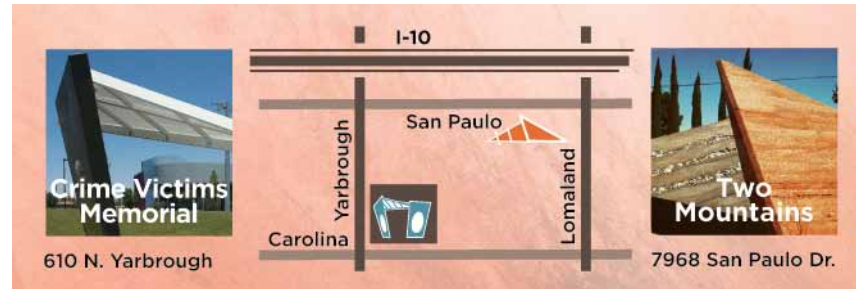
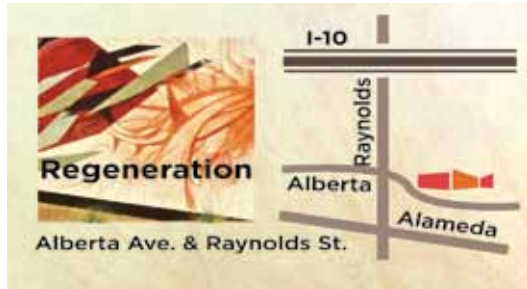
### ABOUT THE WORK

*Confluencia* at the Downtown Transit Terminal comments on El Paso's unique position as a transit hub and passageway between Mexico and the United States. Combining arc-shaped steel columns and cross braces with an infill of curvilinear metal and glass elements, this abstract sculpture makes metaphoric references to the El Paso sun, river, and mountain valley. Measuring 25 feet in height, this sculpture presents an iconic, highly visible marker for all those commuting and visiting the Downtown Transit Terminal.

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Hank Saxe & Cynthia Patterson draw upon their backgrounds in ceramics, textiles, sculpture, design and construction in creating their art for public locations. Their artwork responds to factors that define a community, while continuing an exploration of form that relates to landscape and architecture. Local natural and human history, climate, geography and built environment direct the conceptualization and design of their art. The artists utilize durable building construction materials including concrete, stone, ceramic, glass, and metals. They live in the upper Rio Grande watershed, in Taos, NM.

**MAPS**



**EL PASO PUBLIC ART PROGRAM**

The Public Art Program for the City of El Paso was adopted by City Council in 2006 in the effort to integrate public artworks throughout the City of El Paso. The Public Art Ordinance established a 2% for the arts program, setting aside 2% from every Capital Improvement Project budget for the acquisition of art for municipal property. Since its inception, the Public Art Program has strived to offer our local communities and neighborhoods insight, repose, delight and a distinctive sense of place in the essence of achieving the following Public Art Policy Goals to:

**Enhance** the quality of life of residents through the thoughtful infusion of artists at a neighborhood level and in the design of publicly financed infrastructure.

**Promote** economic revitalization by adding value to municipal facilities, creating ongoing opportunities for artists and artisans to enhance the visitor experience.

**Define** and improve authentic images of El Paso as a unique place, community and destination.

**Administer**, maintain, and conserve the City's public art collection.



The success of public art has allowed the City of El Paso to enhance local communities and neighborhoods, converting them into visual landmarks and sources of inspiration, education and pride for residents and visitors alike. In the creation of Public Art, we have instilled self-esteem, a better understanding and reflection of our community, respect for our diverse histories, communities and cultures; ultimately defining our city of El Paso.

In its fourth year anniversary, the El Paso Public Art Program is proud to present current progression and continuation of Public Art in the City of El Paso. The artworks recognized in this 2010 edition are a sampling of the quality of works El Pasoans and visitors can expect from future public art projects.



The mission of the Museums and Cultural Affairs Department (MCAD) is to assist in developing a world-class art community in El Paso, Texas. To accomplish this goal the MCAD has established The Museums Division comprised of the El Paso Museum of Art, the El Paso Museum of Archaeology and the El Paso Museum of History each dedicated to providing exhibitions and educational activities that recognize the region's multi-cultural heritage and contributors. The Cultural Affairs Division implements funding programs, public art programs, cultural tourism initiatives and performing/visual arts events that provide a variety of opportunities to engage in arts and cultural activities that enliven and celebrate the City of El Paso and the region. The Museums and Cultural Affairs Department is committed to the continued development of the City's arts industry, providing quality programs that are representative of the city's diverse cultures; and to maximizing available resources in order to enhance the city's cultural vitality.



M C A D

City of El Paso  
Museums and Cultural Affairs Department

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