

# KBR 31

## Artist's Statement

Excerpt:

Working in the public realm, I have come to understand the ability of art to transform our relationship to our physical environment by evoking a sense of emotion-curiosity, beauty, whimsy and /or and a desire for additional investigation.

Art in public locations reaches a broad audience and as such, I believe that it should be widely accessible both in its appeal and its ability to challenge our common notions of form and content. An additional focus that I bring to my work is material handling and craft. Though much of this work is intended for larger scale environments, I strive to bring a studio sensibility to the execution of my designs. As such, I often assume the role of fabricator/ installer on my projects, often in collaboration with other artists and crafts people . . .

## **PROPOSED ROUNDABOUT SCULPTURE:**

SR 28 through Kings Beach is a heavily used corridor for pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traffic. For local residents and out of town visitors the streetscape is a necessary path along their daily commute. For many others, it is a vital corridor around Lake Tahoe. The recent streetscape improvements are immediately palpable, they create a much more friendly pedestrian experience and (time will tell) seem to regulate the flow of vehicular traffic much more smoothly than before. These infrastructure improvements are huge because they facilitate the increasing enthusiasm for outdoor recreation and help Kings Beach to become more of a destination, rather than a place to pass through. The roundabouts are conveniently located to give greater pedestrian access to beach and shore line park locations, while the added sidewalk space increases the usable area for foot traffic and a myriad of community events held in summer months.

To playfully capture the viewers' gaze during their "drive by" or "walk by" experience, the artwork I am presenting displays both iconic imagery and abstract elements of design. The shape and size of the sculptures draws reference simultaneously to "leaves" and "sails" and bring attention to the juxtaposition of the surrounding two environments, land and water. The leaf designs are descriptive of the cottonwoods found in the nearby wetlands. The smooth color gradients expressed within the crushed glass panels reference the

soft colors found in the ultra-clear water of Lake Tahoe. Similarly, the size and position of the sculptures reflect the presence of sails that may be passing by out on the open water. One of the challenges associated with the roundabout project will be to develop an art design that is compelling up close and from a distance. I believe that combination of design, scale and material used to create the leaf- sails will appeal to a variety of perspectives.

The leaf-sail sculptures that I am proposing are comprised of a steel framework and feature a series of multicolored crushed glass panels that are assembled using a method of construction known as “Endomosaic.” This innovative technique was developed and named by the by Big Sur artist Emile Norman in the 1950’s and is most widely recognized in the notable commission that he created for the Masonic Temple in San Francisco. A few years ago, I began looking for new ways of safely using glass in outdoor environments and incorporated this method of building into my repertoire of design and fabrication techniques. The translucent quality of the glass material is integral to aesthetic intent that I envision for these spaces. The glass material reflects light during the day and absorbs projected light at night, giving a subtle interaction with the ambient light. Now, I have at least one major outdoor installation that successfully demonstrates this practical combination of materials, located along the 41st Avenue Streetscape in Capitola, CA.