

## Artist: Deborah Kennedy and Diana Pompelly Bates

Title: *Ripple Effect and Run River Run*

Completed: April 2004

Location: Coyote Creek River Oaks Levee Trail



### ABOUT THE PROJECT

As part of the City's on going commitment to the arts, the San José Public Art Program commissioned artist Deborah Kennedy and Diana Pompelly Bates to develop a project to increase visibility of the public access to the River Oaks / Coyote Creek recreation area. By creating a gate, concrete landing pad and ramp to the top of the levee, community members relying on wheels--people in wheelchairs, mothers with strollers and bicyclists--are now able to safely access the levee area. Increasing use of the ramp also protects the levee from potentially damaging erosion.

"Ripple Effect," by Deborah Kennedy is a blue concrete platform shaped with naturalistic curves and embedded with rare quartz boulders was designed to suggest a pond. Two bronze inlays represent the ripples formed by throwing a rock into a pond. The artist hopes this reminds viewers to think about the ripple effects of our actions on our water systems.

"Run River Run," by Diana Pumpelly Bates is fabricated from stainless steel water jet cut panels that reference Coyote Creek and its by-pass channel at Montague Expressway. The asymmetrical flowing lines and shapes created by the surface finish references the fork whereby Coyote Creek overflows into the by-pass channel. The abundance of water, potentially on the cusp of flooding, is meant to inspire in viewers a reverential respect for the unknown power of this life-sustaining resource.

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Deborah Kennedy has exhibited in numerous solo and group shows in California and Germany. She was awarded a three-year California Arts Council grant to work with at-risk youth on graffiti murals and has completed a public art commission--*EcoTech*--on the light rail line in San Jose. In 1997, she received an Artist's Fellowship for Installation Arts from the Arts Council of Santa Clara County, San Jose, California and two years later she completed a solo exhibition at the de Saisset Museum in Santa Clara, CA. Currently, she is teaching *Environmental Art*:

*Theory and Practice* at Santa Clara University and she is working on a public art piece with a watershed theme for the Santa Clara Water District.

Diana Pumpelly Bates is a sculptor and public artist working in bronze, iron, and steel. Her work has been included in exhibitions at the Oakland Museum, Oakland, CA; The Triton Museum, Santa Clara, CA; the Oliver Art Center at California College of Arts and Crafts; the National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, Tennessee; and John Jay College, New York. She has completed several public art commissions for transportation agencies in the region, and a number of Public Art Programs in Northern California. She is currently a design consultant for Parson Brinkerhoff to provide art and design contributions for the Hazel Ave Bridge on the American River Wildlife Corridor in Sacramento, and commissioned by San Francisco Public Art Commission to create artwork for the new Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco.

#### About the Public Art Program

The City of San José Public Art Program reflects community identity by initiating artworks and exhibitions that enhance the civic landscape. Through active community engagement with artists, projects reflect the City's ethnic diversity, historic richness, and envision its present and future.

The Public Art Program is a division of San José's Office of Cultural Affairs. The San José Arts Commission oversees the Public Art Program, established by a 1984 municipal ordinance that provides 2% for art in City capital improvement projects, and 1% for art in eligible private development.