



SIGHT UNSEEN

Living Lenses - Po Shu Wang and Louise Bertelsen

DATE

Artist commissioned March 2006

Work installed April 2012

LOCATION

Midtown Park, S. Kings Dr. and Baxter St., Charlotte, N.C.

DESCRIPTION

Normally, visual art is by definition not accessible to the sight-impaired. For this project, the artists began by envisioning through the ears and hands of a sight-impaired person. Noticing the similarity between the embossed dots of Braille signage and those embossed on a music box cylinder, they created a union of these two seemingly unrelated items in their artwork. The works feature a modified music box which plays Braille letters placed on a music staff to create notes. When the music box within the art is moved, visitors experience a unique music. The artworks are subtle and deliberately obscure structures, offering no clues to their function. They are designed to trigger the curiosity of the community. The artworks play poems the artists wrote about the greenway. The English text of these poems is purposefully not displayed on the site. This offers an underlying intimacy to the sight-impaired public. A sighted person cannot easily experience the full meaning of the artwork. You must read Braille or ask the assistance of one who does to appreciate the entirety of the art. Their thought is that in time, one could even learn the art of understanding any Braille text just by listening to its music. The work is a fusion of art, music, and poetry that investigates the universal question of how we all interface with our environment through our senses.

SELECTION PANEL

Marc Gustafson, Public Art Commission; Suzanne Fetscher, Public Art Commission; Lia Newman, Van Every/Smith Galleries; LaWana Mayfield, City Council; Linda Dougherty, North Carolina Museum of Art; Jerry Orr, Charlotte Douglas International Airport; Teresa Robertson, Nascar Hall of Fame; Blair Stanford, Charlotte Chamber; Gina Howard, Charlotte Regional Partnership, Vince Papke, Wilson Air Center

FUNDING PARTNER

This project is funded through Mecklenburg County's 1% for the Arts Ordinance. The ASC administers the public art program for the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Artist Selection and designs are approved by the appointed Public Art Commission.

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