



Photos by Yuri Tsuzuki

TREE OF LIFE

Yuri Tsuzuki

Date

Artist Commissioned February 2019

Installed July 2020

Location

Charlotte Fire Department #43

429 Clanton Road

Charlotte, NC 28217

Description

Tree of Life tells the story of firefighters and rescue teams who work in this community and the neighbors who depend on them daily.

The sculpture pays tribute to the history of the fire department by utilizing the many important symbols of the fire station: the Maltese Cross, the axe, the jaws of life, the fire symbol, and the ladder.

A symbol of life force, the tree evokes resilience, quiet strength, and sustainability, not unlike the firefighters who give their lives to the community every day.

About Yuri Tsuzuki

Yuri Tsuzuki is a Japanese artist from Greenville, SC. Yuri grew up between Japan and the Carolinas where her family has been active in the textile industry for several generations. She graduated from Princeton and Columbia Universities with a BA and MA in Art History. Yuri's art finds its roots in Japan, her formal education in art, her apprenticeships at the MOMA in New York, and her early career in television. Abstract, gestural, yet readily accessible, her works are reminiscent of her favorite artists - Calder, Christo, and Noguchi. After focusing on painting and ceramics in her New York City studio in the late 1990s and early 2000s, she moved for several years to South America. Here, she discovered "steel" as her favorite medium while experimenting techniques in the steel fabrication shops of Bogota.

The themes which dominate Yuri's expression are nature-centric. The tree in particular has been a constant subject and symbol both in painting and sculpture. "The tree is a metaphor for our humanness, its roots like our complex inner landscape—personal yet shared by all."

Selection Panel

Cathay Dawkins, Public Art Commission; Megan Lynch, Director of Art Galleries, Central Piedmont Community College; Edwin Gill, Artist; Chief Damian Owens, Division Chief, Charlotte Fire Department; Deputy Chief Cynthia Bonham, Charlotte Fire Department

Funding Partner

This project is funded through **the City of Charlotte's** 1% for the Arts Ordinance. 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.

Public Art Program

222 South Church Street, Suite 300
Charlotte, NC 28202 • 704-335-3273

