



Neighborhood Art



Stories of Nesting II

Joan Baron

Concrete irrigation standpipe base covered with ceramic mosaic tile and smalti glass tile

2008

Location: Mitchell Park East Neighborhood
9th and Roosevelt streets

Artist Website: www.joanbaron.com

Description: The unique diversity of birds that have been seen in this area of Tempe provides the theme for the design of *Stories of Nesting II*. Large trees and dense plant material in the landscape may have influenced the flight path of birds migrating from South America to North America. Bird images include the Gila Woodpecker and Red-Winged Blackbird along with numerous tree and plant imagery. References to water and rain, the sun and moon, wind, the vast cosmos and mountain and land ranges are apparent. Baron's piece presents the message of the importance of exploring and taking responsibility for the dramatic interconnectedness to the environment and all beings. All are precious and all require personal involvement for safe keeping and well-being. Public art has this ability, partly due to its scale, to deliver and draw attention to these significant and timely issues of the day.

Artist biography: Baron is an environmental artist, educator and innovative community leader. As the owner of Baron Studio she has earned a reputation for cutting edge design and fabrication solutions for a variety of public art projects installed in parks, hospitals, gardens and schools, as well as site specific installations. Baron is well known for her ability to engage the community in her public art projects through her skills as a facilitator and her knowledge of local materials. Baron's original designs in tile, detailed mosaic installations, rammed earth, ceramics and sculptural steel deliver a multi-dimensional aesthetic that enhances every space she enters. Baron recently was honored with an eight-page retrospective article in *Phoenix Home & Garden* magazine and has received several Valley Forward Environmental Excellence Awards for Art in Public Places.

Funding: This project was funded through the city of Tempe Maryanne Corder Neighborhood Grant Program. www.tempe.gov/neighborhoods