



Tempe Public Art



Contours and Crossings

Mary Lucking

Rusted steel, sandblasted
and stained concrete

2011

Location: Crosscut Canal Multi-use Path
Papago Park

Artist Website: www.lizardacres.com

Description: Three sculptural bridges offer walkers places to pause and notice the spectacular landscape at passage points across the Crosscut Canal in Papago Park in Tempe. The mile-long stretch of the Crosscut Canal Multi-use Path winds through a wide variety of manmade and natural environments, and each bridge reflects its unique site. The North Bridge features sculptural perforated panels set into a truss bridge. The ripple forms echo the movement of the water below, and the subtle form is low to the water to keep views of the red-rock mountains above. To keep costs down, custom perforated panels were inset into a standard trestle bridge, turning an off-the-shelf item into a unique sculptural form. The Middle Bridge features two arch forms with built-in seating, dramatically cantilevered over the water. The shape of the bridge echoes the form of a nearby dam. The South Bridge is located in a more natural, shady point in the park. The wood deck and flared arcs of perforated steel provide a softer-feeling bridge that melts into the landscape, opening up in the center, giving walkers a view of the natural-banked canal. While all three bridges are large, sculptural pieces, the choice of materials, dimensions and forms help them melt into the landscape, letting the natural surroundings shine.

Artist biography: Lucking creates artworks for people to share. Her work ranges from large-scale, permanent artworks to temporary interactive installations. Her projects include art incorporated into urban and rural walking and biking trails, public transit stations, college campuses and neighborhood parks. Three of her artworks have received Americans for the Arts Public Art Year in Review awards. Lucking holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, in Architecture from Wellesley College and a Master of Fine Arts in Art and Technology from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

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