



SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION  
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 240, San Francisco CA 94102

## GLEN PARK BRANCH LIBRARY ARTWORK

### *Six Degrees*

**Artists Reddy Lieb and Linda Raynsford**



*Six Degrees* is an artwork installed in the entrance of the new Glen Park Branch Library. The artists Reddy Lieb and Linda Raynsford were commissioned to create a wall relief specifically for this new Glen Park neighborhood facility. All the diverse circular art elements have been handmade by the artists who were inspired by the history and ecology of Glen Park. The circle, which the artists used as their main geometric design form, is intended to symbolize wholeness and community.

Specific references in the artwork are as follows:

- In 1889, an amusement park was built in Glen Canyon to attract potential home buyers. One of the attractions was tightrope walker Jimmy “Scarface” Williams. His image has been silk-screened on a stainless steel circle.
- Early streetcar tracks in Glen Park are silk screened on another metal circle.
- An abstracted glass bat house refers to a recent mosquito abatement program that included the installation of nine bat houses near Islais Creek.
- A blue painted circle represents Islais Creek.

- In 1965, when there were plans to destroy the southwest portion of Glen Park to improve automobile transit, three women---Geraldine Arkush, Zoann Nordstrom, and Joan Siebold, collectively known as the Gum Tree Girls—helped prevent that development.
  - The outline of a red-tailed hawk’s wings is painted on a yellow circle.
  - Copper cut-outs fused in glass are images of plant life in Glen Park.
  - A poem written by local poet Diane DiPrima for William Blake is fired into a circular glass medallion near the bottom of the artwork.
- The entire poem reads as follows:

**For Blake**

by now it is too late to wonder  
 why we are wherever we are  
 (tho some peace is possible): singing on the breath  
 & we have had bodies of Fire and lived in the Sun  
 & we have had bodies of Water and lived in Venus  
 and bodies of Air that screeched as they tore around Jupiter  
 all our eyes remembering Love

The artwork consists primarily of glass and metal elements, with paint, photo silk-screened imagery, copper leaf, and varnish. The artist used recycled materials whenever possible.

Reddy Lieb, who has worked for many years with glass as well as other materials, received her MFA in Glass Sculpture from the California College of Art in San Francisco and studied at the Pilchuck Glass School in Stanwood WA. Linda Raynsford works primarily with found materials, mostly steel, to create both geometric forms and feminine-inspired sculptures, such as metal dress-like forms and accessories. Both artists reside in San Francisco.

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