



**May 19, 2022**

**RE: Agenda Item 4**

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Public Art Commission accept the donation of artwork by Cubberley artist Elizabeth Bennett into the City collection.

**Discussion:**

This generous gift is being offered by Elizabeth Bennett as part of the Cubberley Artist Studio Program (CASP) agreement. According to the CASP Guidelines, all CASP artists are expected to donate one of his/her artworks in their first (4-year) residency term to the City's Public Art Program. The donation is subject to the approval of the Public Art Commission and, upon acceptance, will be deemed a gift made under terms and conditions established by City.

**About the Artist:**

Elizabeth Bennett is an interdisciplinary visual artist who currently resides in Cupertino, CA. She has been a resident CASP artist since 2018. Bennett was previously granted residencies at Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts in Wyoming, PLAYA in Oregon, StudioWorks at the Tides Institute in Maine. She has shown her work throughout California, as well as nationally. Her work has been acquired by the Hawai'i State Foundation of Culture and the Arts, Notre Dame of Maryland University's Gormley Gallery, and King County Public Art Collection (Seattle, WA) and is in many private collections. Bennett states: "The through line in all my work is the human search for meaning through order, and the arbitrary nature of the order we create. My work spans and interweaves mediums and processes as I roam freely between being an introverted analytic formalist and a socially engaged trickster. Mostly, I play. I play with rules in the form of interventions that are often subversive, humorous, and absurd. I play with text, rearranging what is familiar, or placing text where it is unexpected. And I play with the mundane until it becomes surprising".

**About the offered donation:**

The three artworks offered for donation are from Bennett's recent series titled "Picking Up the Pieces", a fifteen panel polyptych. In this series, the artist reconfigured each

standard puzzle shape into twelve new shapes that are laid out in grids and labeled them with her personal associations. Bennett's idea was to "play with the expectations we have of a puzzle. Pieces fit and make sense when put in place. They transform from meaningless to integral. It mirrors what we search for in our lives."

**Image of Proposed Artworks:**

*Picking Up the Pieces, #2, #8, and #10, 2019 by Elizabeth Bennett, 17" x 11" each*





Alongolan in traditional hat



rolling pin



two headed llama



persimmon tree in November



Rudolf



foot of gun owner



flat fish



Schrauzer



collapsible sword



trying not to drip triple  
scoop on shirt



conjoined triplets



airplane



frog or wombat



back to back toilets



giraffe



mask for cyclops



two headed turtle  
wearing party hats



back to back blowdryers



race car



Christmas stockings



torso of body builder



dung beetle



chicken



El Kabong's guitar

ELIZABETH BENNETT

EDUCATION

MFA Mills College  
Headlands Graduate Fellowship Award Finalist  
BA Studio Art Stanford  
Raina Giese Award in Creative Painting  
BA Philosophy Stanford  
Postgraduate Studies SJSU  
Printmaking, Book Arts

RESIDENCIES 2018 - 2022 City of Palo Alto Cubberley Artist Studio Program  
2017 StudioWorks, Tides Institute ME  
2014 Playa, OR

EXHIBITIONS

Solo and Two Person

2020 "we will remember these truths" Gearbox Gallery, Oakland, CA  
2018 "Elizabeth Bennett: In Context" Embark Gallery, San Francisco

Juried and Group

2021 Silicon Valley Sculpture 2021, Menlo College, Menlo Park, CA  
2021 "Brand 49: Works on Paper," Glendale, CA  
Juror Marvella Muro, Director Self Help Graphics and Art (SHG) Los Angeles  
2021 7th Annual Juried Show at Piedmont Center for the Arts, Oakland, CA  
Jurors René de Guzman, Senior Curator of Art, Oakland Museum of California, and Danielle Fox, Principal, Slate Gallery, Oakland.  
2021 "Street Encounters" The Silos at Sawyer Yards, Houston TX  
Juror Paula Tognarelli, Director and Curator of the Griffin Museum of Photography, MA  
2020 "Street Encounters" Arlington Museum of Art, TX  
Juror Paula Tognarelli, Director and Curator of the Griffin Museum of Photography, MA  
2020 Silicon Valley Sculpture 2020, Menlo College, CA  
2020 Axis Gallery 15th National Juried Exhibition

Juror Marcela Pardo Ariza

- 2020 Finding Beauty in an Imperfect World virtual exhibit
- 2020 “Americas 2020: Paperworks” Northwest Arts Center, Minot State University, ND  
Juror Christina Z. Anderson, Professor of Photography at Montana State University
- 2020 Berkeley Art Center Members Show
- 2019 “Ink and Clay 44” Kellogg University Art Gallery at Cal Poly Pomona, CA  
Juror Kimiko Miyoshi Artist, Professor at CSU, Long Beach, CA  
Curator Juri Koll Founder and Director of Venice Institute of Contemporary Art, CA
- 2019 “Art Plus Movement” GearBox Gallery, Oakland, CA  
Juror Maria Porges Artist, Writer, and Professor at California College of the Arts
- 2019 Tides Institute & Museum of Art Auction, ME
- 2019 “Brand 47: Works on Paper” Glendale, CA  
Juror Alma Ruiz, Senior Fellow Sotheby’s Institute of Art/Claremont Graduate University
- 2019 “NFC: Art in Tech Gathering Context” Art Lab, Cubberley Palo Alto, CA
- 2019 “West Coast Biennial Exhibition” Turtle Bay Exploration Park, Redding CA  
Curator Carrie Lederer, Artist and Curator for Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA
- 2019 “Postcards from the Edge” Bortolami Gallery, New York City, NY
- 2018 Pacific States Biennial North American Print Exhibition, Hilo, HI  
Curator Helen Frederick artist, curator, and the founder of Pyramid Atlantic
- 2018 Solo show “Elizabeth Bennett: In Context” Embark Gallery, San Francisco
- 2018 “Multilayered: New Prints 2018/Summer” IPCNY, New York  
Curator Juan Sanchez, artist, Professor and Head of Graphics CUNY Hunter College
- 2018 “Make Your Mark” Marin Museum of Contemporary Art  
Curator Jen Tough, owner Jen Tough Gallery, Benicia CA
- 2018 “Postcards from the Edge” Gallery 524 New York
- 2017 “Flat File” Embark Gallery, San Francisco CA
- 2017 "AbstrAction" Marin Moca  
Curator Catharine Clark, owner Catharine Clark Gallery  
Honorable Mention
- 2017 “12th National Juried Exhibition” Axis Gallery, Sacramento, CA  
Curator Mat Gleason, Art Critic and Curator

- 2017 “Utopia/Dystopia” Washington State University Gallery 2, Pullman WA
- 2016 “Order + Chaos” Arts Benicia  
Curator Catharine Clark, owner Catharine Clark Gallery
- 2016 "Introductions" Root Division, SF  
Jurors Abby Chen, Curator and Artistic Director Chinese Cultural Center San Francisco, Clea Massiani, Co-Founder Bass and Reiner Gallery, Renny Pritikin, Chief Curator Contemporary Jewish Muuseum
- 2016 “MFA Show” Mills College Art Museum, Oakland CA (catalog)
- 2016 “Campus” Embark Gallery, San Francisco CA  
Juror Justin Hoover, Creative Director of Arts & Culture at Fort Mason, SF (catalog)
- 2016 “Hi/Lo” Embark Gallery, San Francisco CA  
Jurors Megan McConnell, Anthony Meier fine Arts, Kerri Hurtado, Artsource Consulting, Amy Cancelmo, Root Division, SF (catalog)
- 2015 “West Coast Biennial” Turtle Bay Exploration Park, Redding CA  
Juror Bonnie Laing-Malcolmson, Northwest Art Curator, Portland Art Museum
- 2015 “Dig In” Oakland Up, Oakland CA
- 2014 “25th National Drawing and Print Exhibition” Gormley Gallery, Baltimore MD  
Juror Ann Shafer, Associate Curator Baltimore Museum of Art  
Purchase Award
- 2014 “Catalyst” Gallery Route One, Point Reyes Station CA  
Juror Dr. Scott Shields, Associate Director, Chief Curator Crocker Art Museum
- 2014 Institute of Contemporary Art San Jose Fall Auction, San Jose CA
- 2014 Crocker Art Museum Art Auction, Sacramento CA
- 2014 Triton Museum of Art Spring Auction, Santa Clara CA
- 2013 “Return to Simplicity” Piedmont Center for the Arts, Oakland CA  
Juror Rene de Guzman, Senior Curator Oakland Museum
- 2013 “2D-3D Works” L. H. Horton Jr. Gallery, Stockton CA  
Juror Rene de Guzman, Senior Curator Oakland Museum
- 2013 “Bay Area Currents” Pro Arts, Oakland CA  
Juror Michael Schwager, Professor Sonoma State, Art Gallery Director
- 2013 “West Coast Biennial” Turtle Bay Exploration Park, Redding CA  
Juror Dr. Scott Shields, Chief Curator of the Crocker Art Museum
- 2013 “Postcards from the Edge” Luhring Augustine, NY

2013 "Eat, Drink, Be Merry!" San Jose Works Members show, San Jose CA

2013 Institute of Contemporary Art San Jose Fall Auction, San Jose CA

2013 Triton Museum of Art Spring Auction, Santa Clara, CA

2013 "Postcards from the Edge" Sikkema Jenkins & Co, NY

2012 "Visual Politics" Santa Cruz Art League, CA  
Juror Maureen Davidson, Lecturer and Art Critic

2012 "Borders // Boundaries" Sebastopol Center for the Arts, CA  
Juror Gail Wight, Professor Experimental Media Arts, Stanford U  
Merit Award

2012 "California Centered: Printmaking" Merced County Arts Council, CA  
Juror Kevin Bowman, Director and Curator Arts Visalia

2012 "Wonder" Berkeley Art Center, CA

2012 "The More the Merrier 3" Art Ark, San Jose CA

2012 "Optimism, Pessimism, Nihilism" San Jose Works Members Show, San Jose CA

2012 Institute of Contemporary Art San Jose Fall Auction, San Jose CA

2012 Triton Museum of Art Spring Auction, Santa Clara CA

2011 "50/50" Sanchez Art Center, Pacifica CA  
Juror DeWitt Cheng, Art Critic

2011 "The Line" Prescott College Art Gallery, AZ  
Juror John Risseuw, Professor Arizona State

2011 "Shine" Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley CA

2011 "Gems: Exquisite, Intricate, Intimate Small Works" Arts Benicia, Benicia CA

2011 "The More the Merrier 2" Art Ark, San Jose CA

2011 "Movin' on up" San Jose Works Member's Show, San Jose CA

2011 Institute of Contemporary Art San Jose Fall Auction, San Jose CA

2011 "Mail To" Drift Station, NE

2011 Triton Museum of Art Spring Auction, Santa Clara CA

2010 "All Media 2010" Chico Art Center, CA  
Juror Dr. Scott Shields, Chief Curator of the Crocker Art Museum



- 2010 “Exploring Contemporary Printmaking”, Marin MOCA, CA  
Juror Karin Breuer, Curator, Achenbach Foundation Graphic Arts
- 2010 “Green” Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley CA
- 2010 “Ring in the New” San Jose Works, San Jose CA
- 2010 “The More the Merrier” Art Ark, San Jose CA
- 2010 Institute of Contemporary Art San Jose Fall Auction, San Jose CA
- 2010 Triton Museum of Art Spring Auction, Santa Clara CA
- 2010 Crocker Art Museum Art Auction, Sacramento CA
- 2010 “Monotype Marathon” Institute of Contemporary Art San Jose, San Jose CA
- 2009 “Bay Area Annual” Sanchez Art Center, Pacifica, CA  
Juror JoAnne Northrup, Chief Curator, San Jose Museum of Art
- 2009 “Arts on Fire XIII” Sanchez Art Center, Pacifica, CA  
Juror Jacquelin Pilar, Curator of the Fresno Art Museum
- 2009 “Ink and Clay 35” Kellogg University Gallery, Pomona, CA  
Juror Carolyn Peters, Curator of the Laband Art Gallery at Loyola Marymount U.
- 2009 “Impressions 2009” Sebastopol Center for the Arts, CA  
Juror Archana Horsting, Executive Director & co-founder Kala Art Institute, Berkeley CA
- 2009 “The 75th Crocker–Kingsley Art Exhibition” Sacramento, CA  
Juror Michael Bishop, Chair of the Art Department CSU Chico
- 2009 “All for One...” San Jose Works Members Show, San Jose CA
- 2009 Crocker Art Museum Art Auction, Sacramento CA
- 2009 “Keeping Art Alive” Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara CA
- 2009 “Monotype Marathon” Institute of Contemporary Art San Jose, San Jose CA
- 2008 “All Media 08” Chico Art Center. CA  
Juror Julie Gerngross Baker, Julie Baker Fine Art Gallery
- 2008 “Arts on Fire XII” Sanchez Art Center, Pacifica, CA  
Juror Dr. Scott Shields, Chief Curator of the Crocker Art Museum  
Award of Excellence
- 2008 Institute of Contemporary Art San Jose Annual Fall Auction, San Jose CA
- 2008 “Monotype Marathon” Institute of Contemporary Art San Jose, San Jose CA

2008 “Works on Paper” Orchard Commercial North First ARTSpace, San Jose CA