



CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

City of Palo Alto Staff Report to Public Art Commission

April 16, 2014

RE: Agenda Item 2

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Public Art Commission accept the donation of two cast acrylic monotypes titled *No 1 Longscape* and *No 2 Longscape* by artist Joseph Zirker into the City collection. This generous gift is being offered as a donation by the artist's daughter, Karen Jo Koonan.

Discussion:

Joseph Zirker is a distinguished Bay Area-based painter, printmaker, and sculptor. The artist is recognized both nationally and internationally as an innovator in monotype. Through more than four decades of work and experimentation, Joseph Zirker has cultivated a reputation as one of the Bay Area's most innovative printmakers. His entire career is marked by an irrepressible interest in exploring the possibilities of printmaking. Zirker holds patents for two major printmaking techniques that use acrylics, gels and media to make monotype and intaglio prints without the use of printing presses. In his cast acrylic monotypes, Zirker continues his career-long interest in abstraction. His dynamic compositions feature biomorphic shapes and symbols that suggest—without making overt reference to—natural forms.

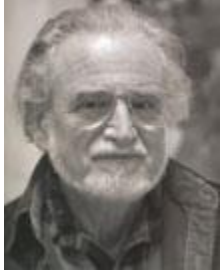
His work has been shown in numerous solo exhibitions — at Smith Anderson Gallery in Palo Alto, the California Palace of the Legion of Honor (Achenbach Foundation for the Graphic Arts) in San Francisco, Nevada Museum of Art in Reno and Espace Latino Americain in Paris.

His art also has been on display in solo and group shows at the National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., in 1977; at the "Eighth British International Print Biennial," Bradford, England, in 1984; at the "Eighth International Triennial Exhibition," Berlin, in 1987; and in "California Abstract Expressionists," International Print Center, New York, in 2003.



Images from top: *No 1 Longscape* and *No 2 Longscape*, 2003 by Joseph Zirker, cast acrylic monotype, 16"x95". The artworks were photographed in the artist's studio in Menlo Park. The two monotypes are offered for donation into the City collection by the artist's daughter Karen Jo Koonan.

Biography



Joseph Zirker is the recipient of a 2004 Pollock-Krasner award and an elected member of the National Academy of Design. He is known worldwide as an innovator in monotype and printmaking. His works are represented in private and public collections, both in the USA and abroad.

He holds an MFA from the University of Southern California, where he taught printmaking. He has lectured at Stanford University, San Jose City College and Portland State University. His workshops have been held at Drake University, Rice University, Cooper Union School of the Arts and in several art academies in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Joseph Zirker, 1924

Education

University of California at Los Angeles, 1943-44, 1946-47

University of Denver, 1948-49, B.F.A.

University of Southern California, 1949-51, M.F.A.

Tamarind Lithography Workshop - Printer Fellowship, 1962, 63, 64

Tamarind Lithography Workshop - Research Fellowship, Fall 1964

Teaching Experience

University of Southern California, 1951, 63

Hollywood Art Center, Los Angeles, California, 1951

Chouinard Art Center, Los Angeles, California, Summer 1963

Los Angeles County Art Institute (Otis), Evenings, 1963-64

San Jose City College, San Jose, California, 1966-80, Fall semesters only 1980-84

Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, Summer Sessions 1984, 85

Stanford University, Stanford, California, Spring Quarter 1981, Summer Quarters 1982, 83, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90

Selected Solo Exhibitions

San Jose State College, 1968

Smith Andersen Gallery, Palo Alto, California, 1972, 74, 78, 81, 87*, 91*, 93*, 95, 97, 99*, 01*, 04*, 05*

California Palace of the Legion of Honor (Achenbach Foundation for the Graphic Arts), San Francisco, California, 1974

De Saisset Art Gallery and Museum, University of Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California, 1975

Merz Gallery, San Jose, California, 1976
Rubicon Gallery, Los Altos, California, 1981
Oakland Museum Collectors Gallery, Oakland, California, 1984
Espace Latino Americain, Paris, France, 1987*
Centrum Frans Masereel, Kasterlee, Belgium, 1989
Kunstgalerie de Greene Weiden, Lampernisse, Belgium, 1990
Galerie Witteveen, Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1990
Quincy College, Quincy, Illinois, 1990
Perimeter Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, 1993
De Saisset Art Gallery and Museum, University of Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California,, 2005*
Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, Nevada, Nov. 2005 – Feb. 2006
Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, California, 2014

Twenty Year Survey Exhibition: 1962-1982*

Smith Andersen Gallery, Palo Alto, California, 1982*
Klein Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, 1982
Alice Simsar Gallery, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1983
University Art Collection, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, 1983
Sierra Nevada Museum, Reno, Nevada, 1983
College of Idaho, Caldwell, Idaho, 1984
Portland State University, Portland, Oregon, 1984
Rogue Gallery, Medford, Oregon, 1986

Two-Person Exhibitions

Misch Kohn and Joseph Zirker, Smith-Andersen Gallery, Palo Alto, California, 1976
Michael Mazur and Joseph Zirker, Jane Haslem Gallery, Washington D.C., 1979
William Weege and Joseph Zirker, Alice Simsar Gallery, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1982
Bob Nugent and Joseph Zirker, Fiberworks, Berkeley, California, 1983
Helen Frederick and Joseph Zirker, G.H. Dalsheimer Gallery, Baltimore, Maryland, 1984
John Anderson and Joseph Zirker, Art Attack Gallery, Boise, Idaho, 1985

Three-Person Exhibitions

“Vacuum Formed Paper” with Charles Hilger and Charles Strong at Sacred Heart, Menlo Park, California, 1978-88
“Vacuum Formed Paper” with Charles Hilger and Charles Strong at Sonoma State, Sonoma, California, 1979
Joseph Zirker, Hunt Stonem and Maria Neefjes, Artemis International Gallery, Hong Kong, 1992

Selected Invitational Group Exhibitions

“New Dimensions of Lithography” (Tamarind Lithographs), University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, 1964*
Southern California Printmakers, Los Angeles, California, 1964
“California Printmakers,” California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, California, 1971

"Monotypes in California," Oakland Art Museum, Oakland, California, 1972*

"Bay Area Monotypes," Palo Alto Cultural Center, Palo Alto, California, 1974

"California Printmakers," Van Stratten Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, 1974

"Artist's Proof - The Multiple Image," Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Downtown Center, San Francisco, California, 1976

"Recent Acquisitions," Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco, California, 1977, 84

"Silver and Ink: Recent Acquisitions for the Prints and Photography Collection," Oakland Art Museum, Oakland, California, 1978

"New Ways with Paper," National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., 1977-78*

"Contemporary American Monotypes," Impressions Gallery, Boston, Massachusetts, and Smith Andersen Gallery, Palo Alto, California, 1979

"American Monotypes: 100 Years," Marilyn Pearl Gallery, New York, New York, 1979*

"Prints: New Points of View," Traveling Exhibition by WAAM, 1979-80*

"The Colored Print," Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, California, 1980

"True Paper," Golden West College, Huntington Beach, California, 1980*

"Paper/Art," Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, California, 1981*

"California Collage," College of the Siskiyous, Weed, California, 1981*

"Paperworks," A National Invitational at the University of Idaho, Moscow and Caldwell, Idaho, 1982

"Sculptural Paper," Brookfield, Connecticut, 1983

"Monoprints," Bluxume Gallery, San Francisco, California, 1983

"Monotypes," Weintraub Gallery, New York, New York, 1984

"Paperworks: A National Invitational," Cheney Cowles Memorial Museum, Spokane, Washington, 1984*

"Paper, Canvas and Glass," Gallery Mack, Seattle, Washington, 1984*

"Eighth British International Print Biennial," Bradford, England, 1984*

"Connoisseurship of Fine Prints," De Saisset Art Gallery and Museum, University of Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California, 1984

"3EP, Ltd., Selected Prints," Helen Lundhurst Gallery, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, 1984

"New Acquisitions," The Achenback Foundation for the Graphic Arts, California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, California, 1985

"Twelve Contemporary Printmakers," Miller/Brown Gallery, San Francisco, California, 1985

"Tenth Anniversary Exhibition," Nimbus Gallery, Dallas, Texas, 1985

"Monotypes," Marsha Mateyka Gallery, Washington D.C. 1985

"Contemporary American Monotypes," Chrysler Museum, Norfolk, Virginia, 1985*

"Contemporary Monotypes: Six Masters," De Saisset Gallery and Museum, University of Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California, 1985*

“Western States Print Invitational,” Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon, 1985
“Selected Monotypes,” Galleri Kulturtorvet, Copenhagen, Denmark, 1986
“Selected from the Bay Area,” Lever/Meyerson Galleries, New York, New York, 1986
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“Paper Works,” The Art Corridor, Sacred Heart Schools, Menlo Park, California, 1987
“California Paper Works,” Redding Museum and Shasta College, Redding, California, 1987
“Eleven Northern California Printmakers,” Centrum Frans Masereel, Kasterlee, Belgium, 1987
“The Anderson Collection: Two Decades of Graphics 1967-87,” The Stanford Museum of Art, Stanford, California, 1987*
“Unique Impressions,” San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, California, 1988
“50 Years of Art,” San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose, California, 1988
“Serious Play: Experiments in Contemporary Printmaking,” San Jose University, San Jose, California, 1988
“Grafiek 1989 vit het Frans Masereel Centrum,” Kasterlee, Belgium 1989
Opening Exhibition, University Art Museum, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, 1989
“California Monotypes,” Rice University, Houston, Texas, 1991

Visual Arts Center, Anchorage, Alaska, 1991 (Northwest Print Council)

“International Graphics,” Alden Biesen, Belgium, 1991
“A Decade of Paper,” Sylvia Cordish Fine Art, Baltimore, Maryland, 1991 (Pyramid Atlantic)
“Directions in Bay Area Printmaking: 3 Decades,” Palo Alto Cultural Center, Palo Alto, California, 1992
“Bay Area Greats,” Syntex Gallery, Palo Alto, California, 1992
“16th Annual National Invitational Drawing Exhibition,” Emporia State University, Kansas, 1992*
“Jonge Amerikaanse Grafiek vit het Frans Masereel Centrum,” Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp, Belgium 1992
The National Academy of Design, New York, 1992, 1993*, 1995*, 1997*, 1999*, 2001*, 2003*, 2005*
“Creativity at the Press,” Mendocino Art Center, Mendocino, California, 1994
“Abstract Contemporary Prints” (from the Keating Collection), Watkins Gallery, The American University, Washington, D.C., 1994*
“Smith Andersen Gallery 25th Year Celebration,” Smith Andersen Gallery, Palo Alto, California, 1994
“The Continuous Line: Circles in Contemporary Artwork,” Hewlett Packard, Palo Alto, California, 1994
“A Bay Area Connection: Works from the Anderson Collection,” Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, California, 1995*
“Monotypes Enre Nous,” Gallery 40, Temse, Belgium, 1995
“Abstraction: Monotype/Monoprint,” University Museum, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pennsylvania, 1996*
Centrum Frans Masereel exhibition at Centre “SaNostra” in Palma, Spain, 1996
“Homenaje a Mendéz,” a virtual portfolio, University Art Museum, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, 1998
“The Print is Cast,” Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, California, 1999
Smith Andersen Editions, Palo Alto, California, 2000
Michael Martin Galleries, San Francisco, California, 2000
Flanders Graphics, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2000

"An American Focus," The Anderson Graphic Arts Collection at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, California, 2000

Marquette University, Haggarty Museum of Art, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 2000

"Veerle Rooms in Dialogue," KBC Tower, Antwerp, Belgium, 2002

Prints from Smith Andersen Editions, Palo Alto, California, 2003

"Expressive Impressions: Three Decades of American Abstract Prints," Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, Jacksonville, Florida, 2003

"California Abstract Expressionists," International Print Center New York, New York, NY, 2003

"For the Love of It," Palo Alto Art Center, Palo Alto, California, 2003

"Recent Press Projects," Smith Andersen Editions, Palo Alto, California, 2003

Juried Exhibitions

"21st Bradley National Print & Drawing Exhibition," Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois, 1987*

"8th International Triennial Exhibition," Berlin, German Democratic Republic, 1987*

"9th International Triennial Exhibition," Berlin, German Democratic Republic, 1990*

"23rd Bradley National Print & Drawing Exhibition," Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois, 1991*

"International Print Exhibition," Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon, 1997

Traveling Exhibitions

International Institute of Experimental Printmaking, 1975-76

Smith Andersen Gallery, Palo Alto, California

Polly Friedlander Gallery, Seattle, Washington

Cleveland Art Institute, Cleveland, Ohio

Sacred Heart School, Menlo Park, California

California State University at Hayward, Hayward, California

Martha Jackson Gallery, New York, New York

University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, North Dakota

Lester Gallery, Inverness, California

"New American Monotypes," Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition, 1978-80*

Towson State University, Baltimore, Maryland

University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, Colorado

Anchorage Historical and Fine Arts Museum, Anchorage, Alaska

The Phillips Collection, Washington D.C.

Mendel Art Gallery, Saskatoon, SK, Canada

University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Santa Fe Community College, Gainesville, Florida

Frederick S. Wright Gallery, U.C.L.A., Los Angeles, California

"Paper as Medium," Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition, 1978-81*

Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho

Tyler Museum of Art, Tyler, Texas
University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, Wisconsin
Concord College, Athens, West Virginia
Florida International University, Miami, Florida
Loch Haven Art Center, Orlando, Florida
University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Davidson Art Center, Middletown, Connecticut
Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, New York
University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia
Honolulu Academy of Arts, Honolulu, Hawaii
Plymouth State College, Plymouth, New Hampshire
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois
Fresque Art Center, East Lansing, Michigan
Sordoni Art Center, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee
Trisolini Gallery, Athens, Ohio

“New American Paperworks,” 1982-85*

University of Houston, Houston, Texas
Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, Alabama
National Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan
The Shukosa Art Gallery, Fukuoka, Japan
The Fine Arts Center of Korean Culture and Arts Foundation, Seoul, The Republic of Korea
Exhibition Hall, Central Library, Kiemyung University, Taegu, The Republic of Korea
Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong
The Metropolitan Museum, Manila, The Philippines
National Museum, Republic of Singapore
Missoula Museum of the Arts, Missoula, Montana
Museum of Art, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon
Tangeman University Center, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio
Lee Hall, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan
Minnesota Museum of Art, St. Paul, Minnesota
Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois
Huntsville Museum of Art, Huntsville, Alabama
Weatherspoon Gallery, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina
The Stamford Museum, Stamford, Connecticut
University of Maryland Art Gallery, College Park, Maryland

“The New Explosion/Paper Art,” 1982-83*

Fine Arts Museum of Long Island, Hempstead, New York
CDS Gallery, New York, New York
Byers Museum, Evanston, Illinois

“Selected Monotypes,” 1984-86*

Smith Andersen Gallery, Palo Alto, California

Santa Cruz Museum, Santa Cruz, California

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska

Art Collections, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona

Honolulu Academy of Arts, Honolulu, Hawaii

“Modern American Printmaking,” 1985-86*

Amerika-Haus in Berlin, Frankfurt, Hannover, Hamburg, Heidelberg, Köln, München

“One-of-a-Kind,” 1984-85*

Maryland Institute, College of Art, Baltimore, Maryland

A.I.R. Gallery, London, England

Aberdeen Art Gallery, Aberdeen, Scotland

Crawford Gallery, St. Andrews, Scotland

Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh, Scotland

Midland Group, Nottingham, England

“The Art of Collaborative Printmaking,” Smith Andersen Editions

The Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, Nevada, 1998

De Saisset Museum, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, California, 1999

Patrick R. Beatrice Haggerty Museum of Art*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 2000

“Machines of Memory: Sculpture and Works on Paper by Joseph Zirker”

Peninsula Museum of Art, Belmont, California, Winter 2010

Smith Andersen Editions, Palo Alto, California, Spring 2010

Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, Santa Cruz, California, Summer 2010

Works in the Following Collections (Selected List)

Grunwald Collection, U.C.L.A., Los Angeles, California, 1953

Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York, 1955

Free Library of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1955

June Wayne, Tamarind Lithography Workshop, Los Angeles, California, 1963

Tamarind Archives, Tamarind Lithography Workshop, Los Angeles, California, 1963

Charles White, Los Angeles, California, 1967

Stanley Freeman Collection, Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California, 1963

Ben Smith Collection, Los Angeles, California, 1963

Martin Gluck Collection, San Diego Museum & La Jolla Art Center, San Diego, California, 1963

Jerry & Carol Goldsmith, Los Angeles, California, 1963, 73

Michael Blankfort Collection, Los Angeles, California, 1963

Ann and Frank Lobdell, Palo Alto, California, 1969, 73

De Saisset Art Gallery & Museum, University of Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California, 1975, 86, 90

Achenbach Foundation for the Graphic Arts, California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, California, 1975, 85
Young Gallery, San Jose, California, 1976
Oakland Art Museum, Oakland, California, 1976
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco, California, 1977, 83, 85
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Klein, Chicago, Illinois, 1978
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Anderson, Atherton, California, 1978, 81
Graham Gund Collection, Los Angeles, California, 1979
College of Idaho, Caldwell, Idaho
Syntex Corporation, Palo Alto, California, 1982, 89
International Paper Corporation, New York, New York, 1982
University Art Collection, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, 1983, 89
Nissan Motors, Executive Offices, Tennessee, 1983
Glen Alps, Seattle, Washington, 1984
Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon, 1984, 85
Evelyn Georges, Portland, Oregon, 1983
Centrum Frans Masereel, Kasterlee, Belgium, 1985, 87, 89, 90
Koninklijk Museum Voor Schone Kunsten, Antwerp, Belgium, 1985, 87, 89, 90
Central Federal Savings, New York, New York, 1987
Tandem Computers, Cupertino, California, 1987
American Nevada Corporation, Henderson, Nevada, 1987
Raychem Corporation, Menlo Park, California, 1988
Morgan Guarantee & Trust Company, New York, New York, 1990
Louisiana Art Museum, Denmark, 1991
Art/Bank, U.S. State Department, Washington D.C., 1991
National Academy of Design, New York, New York, 1992
Stanford University Museum of Art, Stanford, California, 1992, 1997
The National Gallery, Washington D.C., 1996
The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, San Francisco, California, 1998
Patrick & Beatrice Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1993, 97, 98
Green Library, Stanford University, Stanford, California, 2001
Charles Randall Dean Collection, New York, New York, 2002

Grant

Pollock-Krasner Foundation, 2004-2005

* Catalogue accompanies exhibition