

# The North Village Branch Library ART IN PUBLIC PLACES (AIPP) PROJECT



"Sea of Knowledge", 2009, laminated glass window into meeting area.



"Read More Books", 2009, laminated glass mobile in Living Room.

*"I want for the viewer (especially the young) to wonder and question and be curious about the journey that we travel when we open a book."*  
- K. Ash

## PROJECT GOAL

The goal for this project was to commission an artist to work on a design team to create artwork that would be integrated into the architecture of the new North Village Branch Library. After a selection process, Austin artist, Kathleen Ash, was awarded the project. She worked closely with Limbacher-Godfrey Architects and the Library Department in the development of her designs.

## THE SELECTION PROCESS

Austin artists in all media who were enrolled in the Art in Public Places Artist Registry and who indicated an interest in being on a design team were considered eligible for this project.

In 2003 the AIPP Panel nominated a short list of five artists for this project: Peter Mangan, Jake Gilson, Jennifer Chenoweth, Steve Daly and Kathleen Ash. The Selection Panel and Advisors listed below interviewed the nominated artists. Kathleen Ash was approved as the artist by the Art in Public Places Panel and the Austin Arts Commission in August 2003. Later that year, the project was put on hold for two years due to the downturn of Austin's economy.

### Selection Panel:

Al Godfrey, Limbacher-Godfrey Architects,  
Project Architect  
Beverly Penn, Austin Artist  
Judy Jensen, Austin Artist

### Advisors:

John Gillum, Library Department  
Cynthia Jordan, Public Works Project Manager  
Leslie Pearlman, Teacher at Pillow Elementary School, Community Representative  
Maxine Barkan, Austin Arts Commissioner

AIPP Coordinator: Jean Graham

## ARTWORK

### "SEA OF KNOWLEDGE" — BROWSING AREA

The artwork here comprises the window wall into the meeting area. Colorful laminated glass with kiln-fired paint depict children floating on open books on a sea of letters – heading towards an island of discovery.

### "READ MORE BOOKS" — LIVING ROOM

Kathleen Ash has created a mobile of large laminated glass letters suspended by cables. The letters are made of translucent white irridized glass with colored glass shadows and most are painted with a quote from literature. The authors' names are not designated on the letters and the artist hopes that library patrons will guess who the authors are. If people cannot guess the sources of the quotes, a legend is available at the library. Below is a list of the quotations. The letters themselves also form an anagram. Hint: the letters can be used more than once.

- A** It was no wonder that her sons stood tall and straight. She was a rich mine of life, like founders of early races. (Willa Cather)
- D** If your heart is a volcano, how shall you expect flowers to bloom in your hand? (Kahlil Gibran)
- E** How will we know it's us without our past? No. Leave it. Burn it. (John Steinbeck)
- S** In our family, there was no clear line between religion and fly fishing. (Norman MacLean)
- K** It is truth, universally acknowledged. (Jane Austen)
- O** I mean, Man, whither goest thou? Whither goest thou, America, in thy shiny car in the night? (Jack Karouak)
- N** It is the little, pathetic attempts at Quality that kill. (Robert M. Pirsig)
- L** This was celebration, unmitigated by imminent death. This was death unmitigated by celebration... (Johnathan Safran Foer)
- M** It rained for four years, eleven months, and two days. (Gabriel Garcia Marquez)

## KATHLEEN ASH

Kathleen Ash is a well-known artist who has been working with glass at Studio K in Austin for more than 30 years. She specializes in glass for architecture, lighting, and limited production art glass. Her goal is to create work which maintains a functional and aesthetic value over many years. Always intrigued by the process, Kathleen enjoys the technical challenges of working with glass.



Kathleen Ash working on design for window wall.

## THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROGRAM

The goal of the Austin Art in Public Places (AIPP) program is to expand the citizens' of Austin experience with the visual arts and enhance the vitality and quality of public spaces.

Since 1985, AIPP has commissioned more than 150 works that are distributed in facilities and parks throughout the city. Funding for Art in Public Places is allocated by Ordinance as a percentage of eligible construction budgets approved by City Council. AIPP is a component of the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Growth and Redevelopment Services Office.



For more information, visit the city website at  
[www.cityofaustin.org/aipp](http://www.cityofaustin.org/aipp)



Design drawings for the proposed artworks by Kathleen Ash approved by the Arts Commission in March 2007.