

DRAFT

PUBLIC ART WALKING TOUR— MERCED, CALIFORNIA

INFORMATION GATHERED BY KATHY HANSEN FOR THE MERCED COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

Merced Multicultural Arts Center – 645 W. Main St. Merced

☀ **#1 Tile mural facing Main St. Sun Disc Mosaic**

Artist: Judy Pittman – Past Professor at Merced College

- Lots of information on plaque nearby on building. Each circle represents a continent.

☀ **#2 Metal Sculpture - Celebration Of Life - on sidewalk on Main Street in front of Arbor walk**

Artist: Karen LeCocq – Born in Santa Rosa, CA; graduated from Merced High and spent many years working in Merced. She now lives in Mariposa, CA. Professional artist and lecturer at UC Merced, Karen LeCocq is a mixed media sculptor who has shown nationally and internationally in galleries as well as major museums, among them: The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, The Armand Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA, and The Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA. Her work has gained international recognition through its use in the Absolut Vodka Signature Artist campaign. Her work has been pictured in numerous publications, among them: Art In America, Art News, Artforum, Art and Antiques, Manhattan Arts, and Time Magazine and has been reproduced in the books The Power of Feminist Art, Sexual Politics, The Absolut Book, California Artists, Through the Flower, By Our Own Hands, and in her autobiography, The Easiest Thing To Remember.

- The sculpture honors Jerry Smith, longtime _____.
- This sculpture shows all the forms of art

☀ **#3 Youth Art Murals in Arts Alley: Look for signature of Dakota Warren, the artist who created the murals on the back of the theatre.**

☀ **Bob Hart Square: Wall of Tiles created by the community under the direction of artist Monika Modest.**

☀ **550 West Main St.: Wall Facing the District Attorney's Office - Cockerell Plaza -**
A Bas Relief of _____ by Artist _____
to honor longtime Merced business man, Robert Cockerell.

☀ **Hollywood Theatres Mainplace - Murals on two sides of the building facing 18th St. and K St. Created in 2001.**

☀ **#4 Murals Facing K St. – River of Merced (El Rio de la Mercedes)**

Artist: John Pugh – His studio is in Santa Cruz. He says, "I am a trompe l'oeil artist focusing primarily on mural painting. I have found that the "language" of life-size illusions allow me to communicate with a very large audience. It seems almost universal that people take delight in being visually tricked. Once captivated by the illusion, the viewer is lured to cross an artistic threshold and thus seduced into exploring the concept of the piece. I have also found that by creating architectural illusion that integrates with the existing environment both optically and aesthetically, the art transcends the

"separateness" that public art sometimes produces." His art has caused mishaps in many places when people are fooled by his images.

☀ **#5 Murals Facing 18th St. - Native Son, Omnicycle, Oasis in a Fertile Dessert, State of the Arts.**

Artist: Dakota Warren – Born and raised in Merced County, went to Atwater High School, now living in Los Angeles and doing commissioned murals in Texas, New York and Washington, D.C.

(NOTE TO SELF) Paintings on the interior walls of the Merced Theatre and the Old Post Office. We have more information on these now, but I haven't added it to this document yet.

Merced City Hall – Corner of 18th and M Streets

☀ **#6 Sculpture at the corner of the building: Unity**

- Commissioned and created in honor of Samuel Pipes, former City Counsel member
- This piece is done in the Germanic style
- The sculpture is made of bronze. It starts out made of clay and then is cast out of bronze
- Tipping – the figures would fall down if they holding hands – cooperation

☀ **#7 Bronze sculpture: World Tree (Inside the lobby)**

Artist: Lynn Morrison: Long time Merced resident and former art professor at CSU Stanislaus.

☀ **ADDITIONAL PUBLIC ART – MERCED, CALIFORNIA**

☀ **Merced County Courthouse – Corner of 21st and M Streets in Courthouse Park**

Artist/Architect: Albert A. Bennett

Our museum houses 8500 square feet of exhibits, both permanent and rotating, which depict the history of Merced County as well as the settlers of the Great Central Valley. The county's three-story courthouse built in 1875, one of the oldest historical buildings in California. On the National Register of Historic Places, the architectural style of the building is Italianate, designed by State Capital Architect, Albert A. Bennett. Our museum is staffed by volunteers who devote their time into preserving and passing on the history of this great land to generations to come.

- 7 of these Courthouses were built in the State. Merced's is the only one left.

Corner of Olive Ave. and M Street

☀ **Sculpture of Mother with two Children –**

Artist: Clement Renzi - Visalia-born and reared, Renzi spent his formative years studying and working in the Bay area, Vienna and New York. He met his future bride, Dorothy Ohanessian, a Fresnan, while attending school at Berkeley after leaving the Navy. He had actually began his wood- sculpting career as a Naval officer, while in charge of a lumberyard in Hawaii. After college in Berkeley (where

Renzi received a degree in public finance), the couple traveled to Vienna, where he studied the German expressionist style. They then moved to New York, where Renzi worked with the prestigious Sculpture Center before returning to California. "It was necessary for me to get away from my immediate environment and explore the world," he said of his decision to leave the valley as a teen-ager. "It gave me more of a dimension of what life and art are all about, more points of reference." It's a process that never stops. Renzi has made more than a dozen trips to Verona, Italy, to take advantage of "their good foundries and good food." And to people-watch. "Since my subject matter is people, I enjoy watching people and their cultures all over the world and the country," he said.

Merced County Office of Education on the Corner of 13th and M St.

- ☀ Murals on the ends of the buildings facing 13th St.

Artist: Carole Kammerer – Long time teacher in ROP for Merced County and a member Artist of the Arbor Gallery in the Merced Multicultural Arts Center.

- ☀ A Sculpture entitled "Commencement" in front of the MCOE Building. The sculpture Artist: Clement Renzi – The sculpture was created by the late artist Clement Renzi and was commissioned by EECU. The piece was the final work by famed Valley sculptor Renzi, who passed away in 2009. Renzi's other works can be seen throughout the Central Valley.

Merced Visitor Center – 710 West 16th St. Merced

- ☀ Mural depicting History of Merced Facing Front Door high on the wall above Ticket Counter

Artist: Anne Whitehurst – Born and raised in Los Banos, went to college at Santa Clara University and returned to Los Banos. She has painted murals around Merced and around the country.

- Some art techniques that are found in this piece are:
 - Where light is coming from and how it casts shadows
 - One point perspective on horizon
 - How spaces are larger in the foreground, medium sized in the middle and small in the background
 - The idea of color value and how by adding light and dark it can imply certain things like the dust in front of the horse
- **Mural Depicting Merced landmarks on the back wall.**

Artist: Noble Dinse – Noble Thomas Dinse began his artistic career as a Scene Designer in high school. His high school drama teacher, Miss Bonnie Jean Verner, recognized his unusual talent for design and painting. Upon high school graduation, Dinse studied theatre arts at the University of Portland and later transferred to Portland State University where he earned his Bachelor and Masters Degrees in Theatre Design. His first position was with Humbolt State University where he served as a one-year Sabbatical replacement. He was hired the following year as the first designer at CSU, Stanislaus. June of 2002 marks his 33rd year as a professional Scenic Designer in both an educational setting

and the private sector, including Playhouse Merced, Sierra Repertory in Sonoma, and the Music Circus in Sacramento. He currently holds the rank of Professor of Drama at CSUS.

King's Asian Cuisine on the Corner of M St. & K St.

- **Mural Celebrating Jazz Music facing K St.**

Artist: Anne Whitehurst – The mural depicts various icons of Jazz and Blues including Cal Calloway and the Cotton Club.