

U.S. News Corp

Mottarella and Bassoff Are Changing the Landscape in their Own Special Way

Sacramento Hummingbird Park Installation



Seattle Washington Woodland Park Zoo Komodo Dragon Sculpture Play Structure



Sacramento Hummingbird Park Installation



Recently completed commission...Komodo Dragon...10' long".
Acknowledgements for the Komodo photos...Ryan Hawk

R. Scott Vance, Interpretive Exhibits Specialist, wanted something other than bronze for a new exhibit at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, Washington. He chose to commission California artists Domenica Mottarella and Solomon Bassoff of Faducci, LLC to create a hand formed cement and glass mosaic sculpture of a life size Komodo Dragon. The result: A ten feet long, three feet high, constructed of cement, applied Italian glass mosaic, detailed with stainless steel claws and protruding tongue, Komodo Dragon.

The dragon was intended to be an educational and interactive play structure. It is indeed serving both

those functions.

The sculpture was installed in early April 2007 directly outside the Komodo Dragon exhibit. It is a center piece attraction for those entering the exhibit.

When officials of the City of Sacramento, California *Art in Public Places* wanted something special commissioned for a park, they didn't have far to look. The sculptural and design firm of Faducci applied for the commission and got it. Bassoff and Mottarella set out to create a sculptural installation and signage for Hummingbird Park , located at 3601 Duckhorn Drive in Sacramento.

The installation consists of seventeen freestanding sunflowers constructed of steel, hand sculpted cement, and applied Italian glass mosaic. Ranging in size from six to eight feet tall the sunflowers are planted amidst flowering plants and shrubs.

Each sunflower is uniquely decorated with a different color and type of Italian glass. Three of the sunflowers have an additional sculptural element added; a bird, a ladybug, and a butterfly. The sculptures are permanently displayed in a neighborhood park designed for children and families as a part of the *Sacramento Art in Public Places* effort to provide community involvement with the arts.

The sculptures were installed July 2006.

That work of Bassoff and Mottarella is finished in applied Italian glass mosaic creating a spectrum of color and pattern on the sculptures. The color and pattern changes as the light illuminates them.

Offentimes whimsical and humorous, their creations are never boring, but instead add visual excitement to what can be an otherwise barely interesting landscape.

This artistic team says all of their creations are designed for simple maintenance, public safety, longevity, and enjoyment.
