



**San Francisco Arts Commission**

**New Commissions at San Francisco International Airport**

**eric staller**

**san francisco, ca** **US**

**@**

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Tags: SFO- Children's Area, SFO- Light Sculpture

### Resume/C.V.

1. Please copy/paste your Resume/C.V. in the space below.

Eric Staller

San Francisco, CA

Tel:

Email:

1994-2010 Artist in Residence, City of Amsterdam, The Netherlands: exhibits Urban UFO's (mobile public art works) on streets and waterways.

ConferenceBike 2000-present

Invented, patented and sold, more than three hundred 7-person ConferenceBikes in more than 14 countries. See [www.conferencebike.com](http://www.conferencebike.com)

#### Exhibitions

2009, 2008 Voyage de la Paix, Paris, France, mid-east peace conference  
 2008 Oerol Festival, The Netherlands  
 2005 Low Tech, Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam  
 2004 New York Hall of Science, New York, USA  
 2000 Dynamic City, Fondation pour l'architecture, Brussels  
 1999 AREALE'99, Brueck, Germany  
 1999 Peace Caravan, Israel-Jordan  
 1998 Mensch und Machine, Volksbuhne, Berlin, Germany  
 1994 Enlightenment, Kunsthal, Rotterdam, the Netherlands  
 1993 Images du Futur, Montreal, Canada  
 1991 Artec'91, International Biennale, Nagoya, Japan  
 1990 Image World, Whitney Museum, New York, USA

#### Commissions

2010 TAUW BV, The Netherlands, 'WaterWonderWall' video installation  
 2005 Seinhuis Muiderpoort station, Amsterdam, 'Fishing for Compliments'  
 2003 Singelland School, Burgum, The Netherlands, 'Knikkerbaan'  
 2000 Media Plaza, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 'Media Molens'  
 1996 Orange Telecommunications, England  
 1995 Steirisches Glasmuseum, Barnbach, Austria, 'Ghost Squadron'  
 1993 Butterworth Hospital, Grand Rapids, MI, 'The Human Collections'  
 1992 Butterworth Hospital, Grand Rapids, MI, 'Angelvision'  
 1992 Matsushita Corporation, Osaka, Japan, 'Metamorphosis'  
 1990 Matsushita Corporation, Osaka, Japan, 'Magic Garden'

#### Collections

Pavillon des Sciences, Montbelliard, France  
 Bloomfield Science Museum, Jerusalem, Israel  
 Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA  
 Madison Art Center, Madison, USA  
 National Academy of the Sciences, Washington DC, USA  
 Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, USA  
 Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, USA  
 George Eastman House, Rochester, USA  
 Pacific National Bank, Los Angeles, USA  
 Bellevue Hospital, New York, USA

#### Bibliography

Out of My Mind, Eric Staller, Amsterdam, 2006  
 Dynamic City, Fondation pour l'Architecture, Skira, Seuil, 2000  
 My Bug, Michael J. Rosen, Artisan, New York, 1999  
 The Bicycle, Prior Dodge, Flammarion, Paris, France, 1996  
 Water as environmental art, Shoichiro Higuchi, Kashiwashobo Publishing, Tokyo, Japan, 1991  
 New, Used and Improved: Art for the 80's, Peter Frank, Michael McKenzie, Abbeville Press, New York, USA, 1984  
 Auto Tattoo, Germano Celant, Automobilia, Milano, Italy, 1986

#### Selected publications

Associated Press story in newspapers worldwide: PEACETANK, performed in Amsterdam, November 3, 2008 (US election eve)  
The St. Augustine Record, US, November 2005  
The Roanoke Times, US, November 2005  
Villabyerne en Berlingske Tidene, Denmark, August 2003  
The Irish Times, The Independent and The Examiner, Ireland, July, 2002  
Ha'aretz, Israel, January 2001  
Sculpture, July 2000  
La Presse, Montreal, 8 May, 1999  
Japan Times, 29 December 1998  
Wall Street Journal, 20 September 1998  
New York Times, 26 March 1995

#### Selected film and television

World Great TV, Nippon TV, Japan, november 2005  
The Amazing Race, CBS, US October 2005  
The Real Mystery, Nippon TV, May 2005  
Journaal, Brussels, September 2004  
Explosief, SBS6, Nederland, 2003  
C'est l'été Tele 3, France, July 2003  
Irish National Television, Dublin, July 2002  
TVB, Brandenburg, Germany, July 2002  
Lonely Planet: Amsterdam, Pilot Films, Londen, England, August 2000  
Wild Wheels, documentary film by Harrod Blank, USA 1995  
Beyond 2000, The Discovery Channel, USA 1994  
The Morning Show, CBS-TV, USA, 25 September 1991

## Letter of Interest

### 1. Letter of Interest:

Since 1990 I have been creating large-scale public artworks in a wide variety of settings, employing an even wider variety of cutting edge technologies. To see one of my artworks become a permanent fixture in a plaza or building space, giving pleasure year after year to the public, is my greatest source of satisfaction. I am trained as an architect. Years of working together with corporate and civic executives, architects, engineers, fabricators and artisans, has been an experience rich in challenges and dreams made real. My public art is created in a balance between my fantasy and the client's reality. I study the site and its use, its place and its cultural context. I ask my client, and myself: "what does a work of art want to be here?" I take into account the cultural and architectural contexts, the budget, the project deadline and many other criteria. I have worked with (and within) budgets of \$100,000 to \$2 million.

I have built artworks that have become more than artworks; they often become beloved places and even symbols or signatures for the places that they are situated. They are about community. They get people talking. A piece I did in Anchorage became the logo for the Alaska Performing Arts Center! The playfulness of my work makes it accessible to a wide audience and not only to the Art World cognoscenti; at the same time my work can be read on a deeper level, as metaphors, inspiring and challenging.

With the completion of my Lightmobile in 1985 I saw how art can 'behave' in public. Lightmobile is a 1967 Volkswagen Beetle covered with 1600 computerized light bulbs. I drove it around New York City, and since then on the streets of many of the world's great cities, and now in San Francisco, on hundreds of evenings. I have looked into the faces of hundreds of thousands of people, and what I have seen is sheer delight and astonishment. The most hard-boiled faces soften into childlike wonder. I aspire to inspire this sense of wonder with my permanent works in public spaces.

I believe I am imminently qualified to create a light sculpture and/or a child-friendly interactive piece for BAE; as well as the suspended piece for Terminal 3.

All of the works in this portfolio have been designed and engineered to be low-maintenance and built to last. I would endeavor to create a piece that will be arresting and fresh for years to come; a piece that will surprise and delight while requiring a minimum of upkeep.

From my AngelVision, which sets a mood of chapel-like contemplation, to the child-like wonder of Magic Garden, to the mesmerizing effect of WaterWonderWall, I am able to meet any public art challenge with originality, craftsmanship and humanity.

## Annotated Image List

### 1. Annotated Image Descriptions

1. The LIGHTMOBILE, 1985, a Volkswagen beetle covered with 1600 computerized light bulbs. I have shared it with hundreds of thousands of people on the streets of New York, Boston, San Francisco, Montreal, Berlin, Basel, Nagoya and Osaka.
2. AngelVision, 1993, 25' x 25' x 25'; aluminum, bronze, stained glass, motors. in the entrance of the Butterworth Women's and Children's Hospital, Grand Rapids, MI. The sculpture consists of 2 motorized cone/wheel elements, each 25' in diameter: one ceiling-mounted, the other floor-supported. The 2 elements slowly (1 RPM) counter-rotate, producing an ever-changing light to bathe the viewer below. AngelVision has become a beloved chapel-like place of respite from the stress of being in a hospital specializing in serious childhood illnesses. Budget: \$200,000
3. Magic Garden 1990, commissioned by Panasonic for Twin 21 Plaza in Osaka. This consists of 16 domed artworks, each 75" in diameter, integrated into the plaza and climate-controlled by an AC system built into the parking structure below. The piece is designed to be magical by day and even more magical by night, using a wide variety of materials and techniques. I sub-contracted the engineering, and general-contracted the building of this in NYC, employing a number of artists/crafts people. Budget: \$1 million.
- 4,5. Media Molens, 2000; Commissioned for an auditorium by an IT convention center, in Utrecht, The Netherlands. Inspired by the Dutch windmills (molen is the Dutch word for windmill), three 15'- diameter blades made of fiberglass and copper, turn slowly overhead. Nine giant eyes (LCD screens) wander, survey and stare at the people sitting below. Budget \$200,000.
6. Fishing for Compliments 2005, commissioned by the Amsterdam MTA, this year-long installation repurposes a 1930's train signal tower located in a busy residential neighborhood. The building is 12' wide X 20' long X 8' high. The windows were replaced by projection screen and the illusion of a giant aquarium created using high-intensity beamers on all facades. Budget: \$50,000.
7. The Human Collections, 1993, created for a corridor in the Butterworth Hospital. Consists of 12 cabinets in the shape of a man, each 75" high and 12" deep, each with a different contents of themed found objects. Budget \$100,000
8. WaterWonderWall, 2009, aluminum, TVs, electronics. created for a corporate lobby in The Netherlands. The installation takes the form of 8 flat screen TVs built into an aluminum sculpture, with a 40-minute programmed video loop. Budget: \$120,000
9. Knikkerbaan, (meaning marble track, a popular Dutch child's game) commissioned in 2000 by a school in the Netherlands. The sculpture, a giant cause and effect game, fills the atrium of the school's entrance. As a student turns a large ship's wheel on the 2d level, a conveyer belt of soccer shoes kicks a ball up the wall. The ball falls into a track and, as it descends, activates lights and sounds. Finally the ball sails off the track and is caught in mid-air by the 'goalkeeper' and returned to the start of the game. Budget: \$40,000
10. Metamorphosis, 1992, commissioned for the International Marketplace in Osaka, Japan. The artwork reveals sculptures within a sculpture during its 38-minute automated program. Budget: \$2 million.



**"Lightmobile"**

5' x 13' x 5'  
1985



**"AngelVision"**

25' x 25' x 25'  
1993

At this hospital children are facing serious illness, with their families under terrific stress. AngelVision, filling the main lobby, is slow-moving and contemplative, providing a chapel-like respite from the business of being in the hospital. It is said to be a place that people come to even when they have no business in the hospital!



**"Magic Garden"**

16- 6' diameter domes  
1992

When I was approached to create a piece for this plaza, there existed 16 circular planters with rather unhappy-looking plantings. I proposed a garden of mechanical, lighted and interactive 'plantings', durable enough to be climbed on, walked on and sat on. The generous budget allowed me to realize some of my wildest dreams!



**"MediaMolens"**

3 elements each 15' diameter  
2000

At this Info Technology convention center in the Netherlands, the multimedia was almost inescapable. Laptop stations in the meeting rooms, TV monitors in the bar. There were computer screens under thick glass built into the floor of each toilet stall in the restrooms! This was 'connectivity' taken to Orwellian dimension. That is what I wanted my artwork to 'talk about'. In the auditorium I didn't want people to look at media; I wanted the media to look at them. Nine giant eyes would wander, survey and stare at the people sitting underneath, as if to say: 'you want connectivity? I'll give you connectivity.' The piece is called Media Molens. Molen is the Dutch word for windmill. I love the old windmills that dot the Dutch countryside and knew it was only a matter of time before I would appropriate the image.



**"Media Molens (detail)"**

3 elements each 15' diameter  
2000

Three 15' (5m) diameter windmills, made of fiberglass and copper, turn slowly overhead, adding to the surveillance of the staring eyes. The Molens have the patina of something old, with pulsating lights from heavy glass lenses. I was looking for the feeling of the ship Nautilus in the old Disney film "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea".



### "Fishing for Compliments"

10' x 15' x 8'  
2005

This beautiful signal tower with its floor to ceiling windows just said aquarium to me. Commissioned by a neighborhood arts org for a 3-month installation, it was so popular with the community that it was extended an additional 9 months.



### "Human Collections"

12 cabinets each 75" x 36"  
1993

Hospitals, sterile, boring. I won a competition to enliven a connecting corridor. 12 vitrines, 6 on either side of the 100' long corridor, act as friendly sentries as people pass from one wing to another. Each vitrine is rich and varied in its contents: antique cobalt blue glass, glass paperweights, lit from within; humorous cookie jars, etc. provide many minutes of fascination to the viewer.



### "WaterWonderwall"

6' x 12'  
2009

I was asked to interpret water for a company that is one of the world's largest water handling engineers. This hour-long program is designed to be viewed by employees passing through the lobby, as well as visitors waiting for appointments. Entertaining, informative, maintenance-free.



### "Knikkerbaan"

15' x 15' x 15'  
2000

School and fun, not 2 words you often hear together! This piece in a Dutch high school combines a childhood game, Knikkerbaan (marble track) with the national pastime, soccer. No one in the school has NOT tried it. The sculpture, a giant cause and effect game, fills the atrium of the school's entrance. As a student turns a large ship's wheel on the 2d level, a conveyer belt of soccer shoes kicks a ball up the wall. The ball falls into a track and, as it descends, activates lights and sounds. Finally the ball sails off the track and is caught in mid-air by the 'goalkeeper' and returned to the start of the game.



### "Metamorphosis"

20' x 20' x 60'  
1990

With a \$2 million budget I guess I have to call this my sublime AND ridiculous piece. The client in Osaka finished their upscale shopping center and realized that it was sterile and was not attracting the well-to-do young shoppers that they had planned on. I was given carte blanche to create a piece that would be continually surprising, a kind of East meets West metaphor for nature that fills the 60' high atrium space. At the base is a stylized waterfall in plastics and programmed lighting effects (for scale note the man standing next to it). A 12' diameter ball of rocks splits open as if volcanically and a lighted stalk telescopes upward 30', revealing a flower/umbrella form.

Please see [ericstaller.com](http://ericstaller.com) for a video of this piece in action.



"Lightmobile"



"AngelVision"



"Magic Garden"



"MediaMolens"



"Media Molens (detail)"



"Fishing for Compliments"



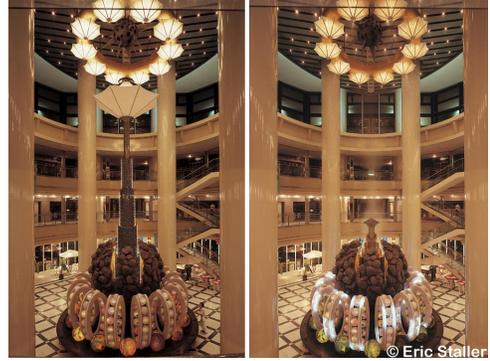
"Human Collections"



"WaterWonderwall"



"Knikkerbaan"



"Metamorphosis"

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