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**SCULPTURES BY THREE SACRAMENTO REGIONAL ARTISTS INSTALLED
IN SACRAMENTO PARKS**

DATE: 11/1/10

WHAT: Sculptures by Three Sacramento Regional Artists Installed at Sacramento Parks

WHERE: **James Piskoti** at Hampton Park, 7510 Wainscott Way
Owen Gabbert at Peregrine Park, 3031 Guadalajara Way
Willem deGroot at Shasta Community Park, 7407 Shasta Avenue

WHEN: October, 2010

CONTACT: Suzy Vose (916) 808-3981, e-mail: svose@cityofsacramento.org

Sacramento, CA— Three parks in the City of Sacramento are now graced with sculptures by James Piskoti, Owen Gabbert, and Willem deGroot.

A bright pink sculpture featuring dozens of playful cartoonish figures by James Piskoti highlights the entrance to Hampton Park. The figures, engaged in both sports and play, are fashioned in metal as positive and negative silhouettes. The sculpture, standing approximately 7' high and 11' long, is cut out of 3/8" mild steel and painted magenta. It celebrates the park as a valuable recreational and social benefit to the community. Sacramento artist James Piskoti is known for his whimsical and playful artwork. An Emiritus Professor of Fine Art at California State University, Stanislaus, he earned a Masters of Fine Art degree from Yale University and a Bachelors of Science degree in Design from the University of Michigan. Piskoti's work has been exhibited locally and nationally.

A stainless steel and granite kinetic sculpture by Owen Gabbert, designed as a tribute to the park's namesake, is situated near the heart of Peregrine Park. Eighteen stainless steel Peregrine Falcons, each unique and in different positions of flight, sit on top of an 11-foot high granite obelisk shaped base. The sculpture's concrete apron is engraved with the letters N, S, E, and W. The artist designed the falcons to twist, spin and turn with the wind separately and together in a complex series of movements. Six are positioned on the rudder of the

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armature and spin separately on their own hardware while twelve larger birds turn in two directions on two different axes. The different groupings and movements of the falcons make them appear as though they've been swept up in the wind. Owen Gabbert lives in Chico, California and creates fine art sculptures in metal and glass as well as unique decorative and functional architectural elements. His work has been commissioned by the Toyota Corporate Headquarters campus in Torrance, CA; MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, NV; the Armenian Cathedral in San Francisco, CA; and other locations.

Willem deGroot takes pride in creating art from used and discarded objects. Using recycled metal and found objects salvaged from local junk yards, he created four sculptures inspired by flight that mark the primary pathway that traverses Shasta Park in South Sacramento. An 8-foot high sculpture located on the park's north side is titled "Baron Von Munchausen" and, when caught by the wind, playfully spins round and round. Two 12-foot high light towers titled "Eclectic Towers" are next along the pathway. The final of the four sculptures, located at the south end of the pathway is titled "Da Vinci Flying Machine". The 11-foot wide kinetic sculpture mounted at the top of a recycled light pole is an ode to Da Vinci's studies of flight. Willem deGroot was born in Holland and his family immigrated to the United States when he was eight years old. He studied at the New School of Art in Toronto, Canada, and the Banff Center in Alberta, Canada. DeGroot's photographs and artwork have been exhibited in New York City, Sacramento, Vancouver, Toronto, and Saint Petersburg, Russia. He lives in Grass Valley, California.

The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, Art in Public Places Program was established by the City and County of Sacramento to provide visual art experiences in public locations through a percent-for-art program which reserves a portion of construction dollars from City, County or Redevelopment projects for public art.

The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission is devoted to supporting, promoting and advocating for the arts in the region. For further information on programs and opportunities through the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission go to: www.sacmetroarts.org. SMAC is funded by the City and County of Sacramento.

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW: Willem deGroot, James Piskoti, Owen Gabbert, and Suzy Vose, Art in Public Places Project Manager. Please contact Suzy Vose (916) 808-3981 or e-mail: svose@cityofsacramento.org to schedule interviews.

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Photo description: "Figures in A Park" by James Piskoti; painted steel, Hampton Park; 7 1/2' H x 11 1/2' W



Photo description: "Kinetic Weather Vane" by Owen Gabbert; stainless steel and polished granite; Peregrine Park; 17 1/2' H x 18" W



Photo description: "Baron Von Munchausen" by Willem deGroot; steel, cast aluminum, tin, and copper; Shasta Park; 8' H x 6' W



Photo description: "Eclectic Towers", two sculptures by Willem deGroot; steel, copper, fiberglass and glass; Shasta Park; 12' H x 3' W



Photo description: "Da Vinci Flying Machine" by Willem deGroot; aluminum, steel, and aircraft cable; Shasta Park; 11' H x 11' W

Photos provided by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission

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