



**Contacts:**

**SJC Media** | 408-392-1199 | [sjcmedia@sjc.org](mailto:sjcmedia@sjc.org)

**OCA Media** | 408-535-8168 | [elisabeth.handler@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:elisabeth.handler@sanjoseca.gov)

November 5, 2020

## ***Holding the Moment: Mineta San José International Airport Exhibits Local Artists' Reflections of Life During the Pandemic***

*-- City of San José Commissions 77 Local Artists*

*for Seven-month Installation at SJC Airport --*



*(Artist credit: Shelter in Place by artist Darren Naylor; Ecdysis (n.) by artist Lalo)*

**San José, Calif.**— Officials at Mineta San José International Airport (SJC) today announced the installation of the first selection in a series of 96 artworks by 77 different local artists. The artworks were commissioned by the City of San José's Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) and will be on display in the Terminal B Arrivals Hall through May 2020.

The OCA's Public Art Program partnered with SJC to host the art exhibit, titled *Holding the Moment*, which captures local artists' interpretations of life during the global pandemic crisis and otherwise challenging times. A jury of prominent Bay Area artists and arts professionals reviewed 327 submissions.

"The culture of travel as we know it changed with the onset of COVID-19," Director of Aviation John Aitken said. "People were forced to stop traveling, and many were forced to stop working. One thing that continued, however, and perhaps flourished, was the creation of art. COVID-19 inspired incredible adjustments and emotions, and artists are among those most severely

impacted. We're thankful to our partners and proud to display the work of these talented local artists to people from around the world right here at Mineta San José International."

Each selected artwork was awarded a \$2,500 prize to provide economic support to the artists. From November 2020 through May 2021, the 96 artworks, grouped into six parts, will each be displayed for five weeks in the Terminal B Arrivals Hall, next to baggage claim.

"This public art project provides a critical opportunity to local artists at a time when they need it most," **Public Art Director Michael Ogilvie** mentions. "There is a preciousness to the moment - even in dire times such as now - that our artists remind us to empathize and hold onto, for in appreciation of this moment there is hope and where there is hope there can be recovery."

To view the artwork displayed from November 1 – December 5, 2020, click [here](#).

For a virtual tour of the entire collection, visit [here](#). Also virtually throughout the seven-month exhibit, OCA will post the artworks on Instagram (@sjculture) and Facebook (@sanjoseculture) alongside statements from the artists, themselves. Follow and share on Social Media at #HoldingTheMomentSJ.

If planning to see the artwork in-person, please note that SJC requires face masks throughout the Airport and reminds travelers to maintain six-foot social distancing practices.

For SJC parking information, visit [here](#).

For more information about SJC's health and safety measures, visit [flysanjose.com/coronavirus](https://www.flysanjose.com/coronavirus).

### **SJC: Transforming How Silicon Valley Travels**

Mineta San José International Airport (SJC) is Silicon Valley's airport, a self-supporting enterprise owned and operated by the City of San Jose. The airport, now in its 71st year, served nearly 15.7 million passengers in 2019, with nonstop service across North America and to Europe and Asia. SJC was America's fastest-growing major airport the past four years, based on percentage increase in passengers served. For more airport information, visit <https://www.flysanjose.com>.

### **About the City of San José Office of Cultural Affairs**

The City of San José recognizes that the arts and culture are essential elements in the character and quality of life in a vibrant community and seeks to ensure that San José is an effective hub of a wide array of arts and cultural opportunities throughout Silicon Valley. The Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of Economic Development in the City Manager's Office, is the lead City of San José agency for stewarding a vibrant arts sector. It achieves this mission through public art and placemaking, arts funding, special event coordination, creative entrepreneur work-force development, cultural facility stewardship, and, among other items, cultural policy. Visit [www.sanjoseculture.org](http://www.sanjoseculture.org).