

City of Dallas News Release

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Dallas Public Art Program Completes Public Artwork at South Central Police Station

DALLAS, TX – The City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs is pleased to announce the completion of *Perception*, a public artwork commissioned for the **South Central Police Station** thru the City of Dallas Public Art Program. The artwork, unveiled on October 22, 2007, was created by artists **Ralph Helmick and Stuart Schechter**, a nationally renowned team of public artists with projects in cities such as Chicago, Seattle, and Philadelphia. The South Central Police Station is located at 1999 E. Camp Wisdom Road in Southern Dallas.

Perception uses imagery, color and motion to create a unique artwork inspired by the multiple experiences related to the daily lives of Dallas citizens. The artwork consists of a seven-foot diameter circular glass plate inserted into the lobby floor that contains three layers of descending concentric rings, each ring moving at a different speed linked to daily and global rhythms. The upper ring illustrates both human and vehicular motion, with silhouettes reflecting human development from infancy to old age. This ring rotates once an hour. The middle ring focuses on local flora and domestic architecture, incorporating the physical structure of our community's daily routine. The middle rotates once every eight hours, an average work shift. The Dallas skyline dominates the third and lowest ring, which also includes outlines of other area icons the viewer will recognize. This ring represents the area of regional identity, and revolves at the same speed as the earth, once every 24 hours. Below the three rings is a "sky beneath," which offers a link between the earthly and the celestial.

Artists Ralph Helmick and Stuart Schechter have been collaborating in public art projects since 1994. Among their completed projects are major commissions at the Sea-Tac Airport in Seattle; the Melvin Price Federal Courthouse in St. Louis; and Midway Airport in Chicago. The team is currently working in projects at the Charlotte-Mecklenberg County Courthouse and the Phoenix Forensic Crime Laboratory. Ralph Helmick holds a B.A. in American Studies from the University of Michigan and an M.F.A. in Sculpture from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and Tufts University. Stuart Schechter, a rocket scientist by training and artist by vocation, holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Wayne State University (MI) and received an M.S. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) works to enhance the vitality of the City and the quality of life for all Dallas citizens by creating an environment wherein arts and culture can thrive so that people of all ages can enjoy opportunities for creative expressions and the celebration of our community's multicultural heritage. The City of Dallas Public Art Program was established by ordinance in 1989 to commission artworks for new city facilities and to provide conservation for over 300 artworks located in public facilities. More information on the programs and services provided by the OCA can be found at www.dallasculture.org.

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