

**Artistic Expressions in
Public Spaces in
Los Angeles and Some Other
American Cities
(Fourth File)**

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First Draft: Monday, December 12, 2011

Part Two: Public Arts in Commercial Spaces

Section One: Art Works Found at Business Institutions on the Streets

Figures 6A through 6C show art works found at some typical business institutions such as banks, commercial office buildings, and restaurant, which are scattered along major streets but not inside shopping malls. Themes are usually “apolitical” and generally acceptable to all clients; and styles are usually “conservative, “non-provocative” and “non-controversial,” to be more specific, they generally reflect “middle-class” or “mainstream” values and tastes.



Figure 6A. Mosaic mural and bronze sculpture showing the youthful vitality of girls and boys at the entrance of Chase Bank in the City of Santa Monica, along Santa Monica Boulevard; many branches of Chase Bank throughout the Greater Los Angeles Area feature similar art works.

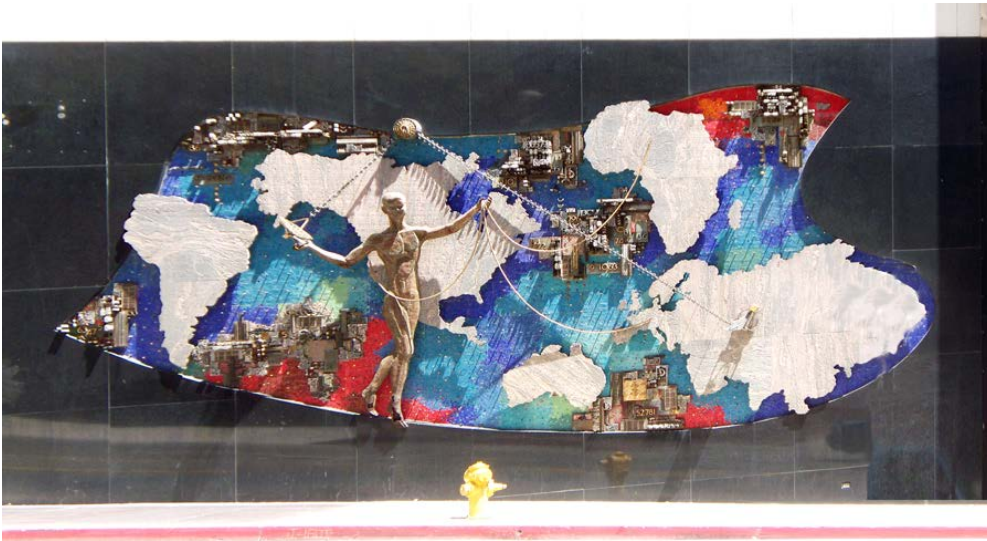


Figure 6B. A three-dimensional mural with colorful bas-relief as sculpture on the exterior wall of the first floor of a commercial office building at the cross section of Figueroa Street and 5th Street in downtown Los Angeles, close to Los Angeles Central Library.



Figure 6C. Bronze sculptures inside a water fountain and basin by the entrance to a local Thai restaurant, at the cross-section of Atlantic Boulevard and Garvey Boulevard, Monterey Park.

Section Two: Art Works Found at Shopping Malls

Figures 7A through 7E show art works found at shopping malls in the Greater Los Angeles Area. As local centers of retail outlets and other businesses, the shopping malls are usually well decorated with works of arts, mostly independent of direct commercial connotations. Similar to the cases with business scattered along major streets, themes of art works at shopping malls are usually “apolitical” and generally acceptable to all clients; and styles are usually “conservative, “non-provocative” and “non-controversial,” to be more specific, they generally reflect “middle-class” or “mainstream” values and tastes.



Figure 7A. A bronze sculpture of rhinoceros serving also as a water jet, in the famous and upscale 3rd Street Promenade Shopping Mall, near Santa Monica Beach.



Figure 7B. Mann Chinese Theater in Hollywood, near the cross-section of Highland Street and Hollywood Boulevard, with Americanized Chinese symbolic decorative motifs such as dragon's head (top left), flower and bells (top center), bas-relief depicting a flying dragon (top right) above the entrance door (bottom left), and painting of sceneries on the entrance doors (bottom right). Notice that these art works have been created with typical Western aesthetic style although they carry Oriental themes.



Figure 7C. Children's playground at the Burger King fast food restaurant inside a shopping mall at the cross section of Lass Tunas Boulevard and Rosemead Boulevard in Temple City, California. Many national chain fast food outlets nowadays features children's playground as a feature of public service.





Figure 7D. Statue of elephant and other bas-relief of mythological animals reminiscent of arts from Ancient India and Persia, featured at the Hollywood Mall next to the Mann's Chinese Theater, near the cross-section of Highland Street and Hollywood Boulevard.

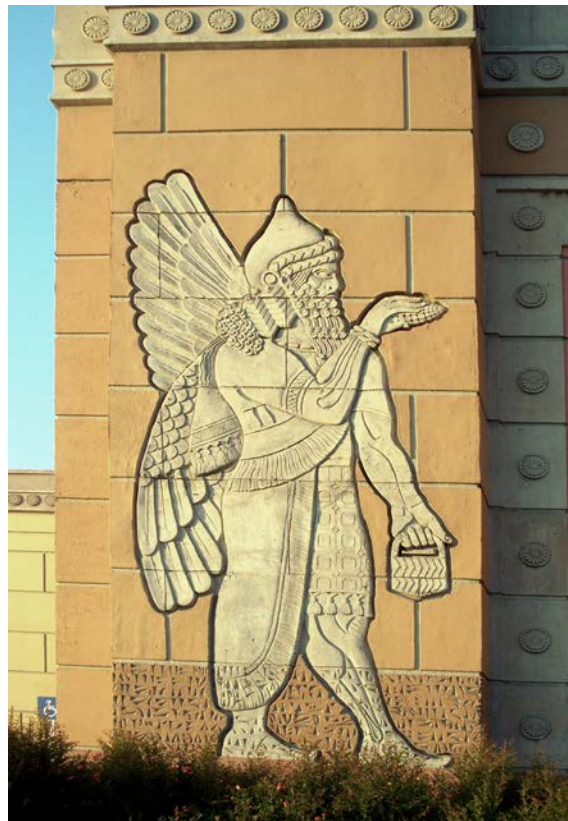




Figure 7E. Statue and bas-reliefs of mythological animals as well as decorative patterns reminiscent of arts from Ancient Persia and other Middle-Eastern cultures, featured at the Citadel shopping mall, in the City of Industry.

Section Three: Art Works Found at Centers of Entertainment and Recreation

Figures 8A and 8B show art works found at some of the most important centers of entertainment and recreation in the Greater Los Angeles Area, such as Santa Monica Beach, and Universal Studio Walkway shopping mall.

As the most important landmarks of Modern American Civilization, these centers of entertainment and recreation together with their associated shopping malls are decorated with the highest possible quality of design, and are mostly independent of direct commercial connotations. Similar to the cases with regular shopping centers, themes of art works at these centers of entertainment and recreation are usually “apolitical” and generally acceptable to all clients and tourists; but their styles are usually “modern,” “audacious,” “flamboyant” and “vivid,” and colorful, to meet the needs of pleasure-seeking visitors.

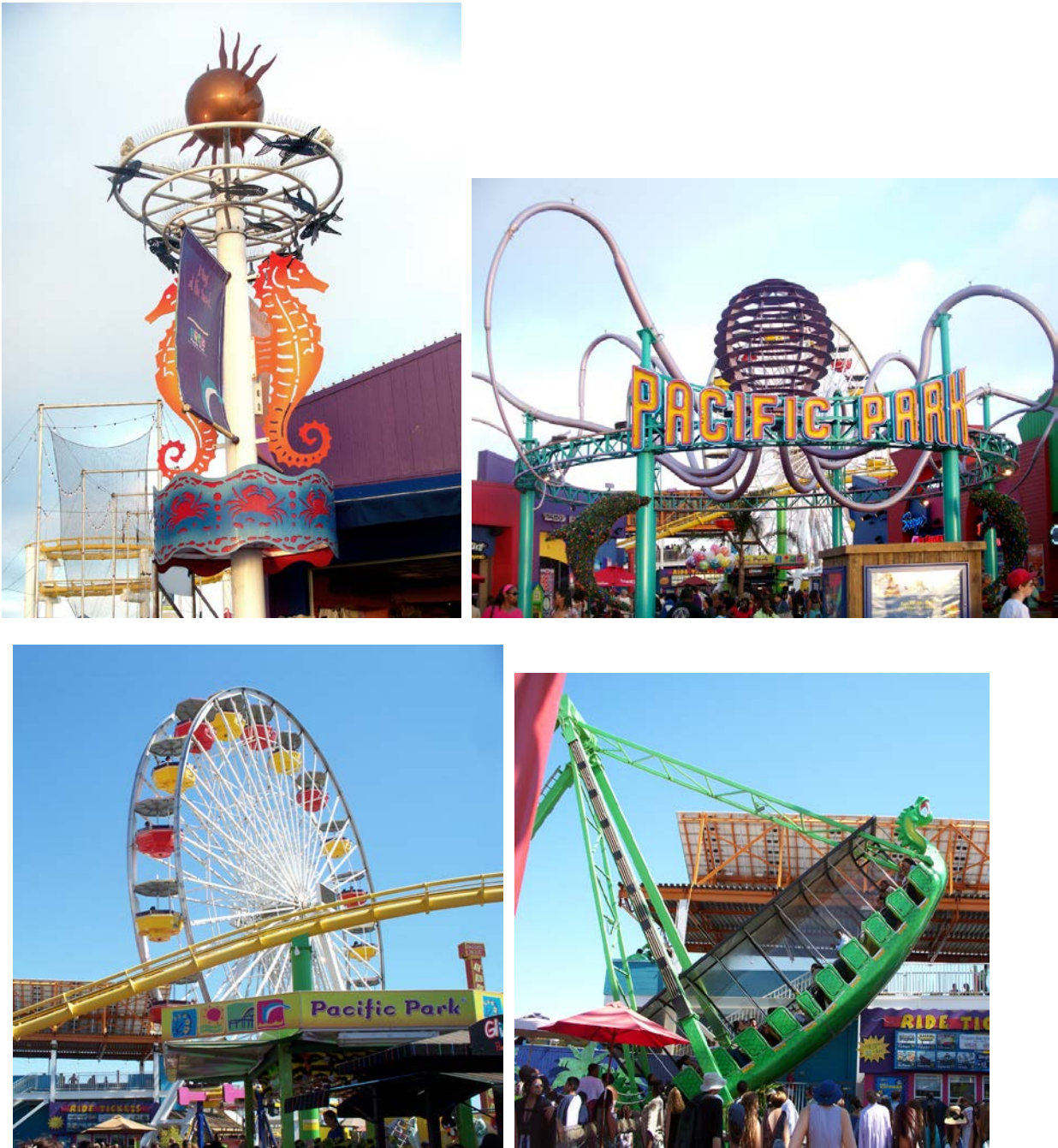


Figure 8A. The Pier of Santa Monica Beach is a famous place of entertainment and recreation for tourists as well as residents of the Greater Los Angeles Area to fish, shop, dine, swim and walk, or to simply watching the waves of the ocean; the design of store fronts, posts (top left), gates (top right) and entertainment equipments (bottom left and right) is of an upscale and elegant style; and the construction is of state-of-the-art quality.



Figure 8B. The Universal Studio Shopping Mall is an upscale one; almost all of the store fronts including signage are great pieces of art works by themselves (top left and right), although due to their direct connection with commercial purposes, they are not part of study in this Research Paper; however, some arts works devoid of commercial message have been found, including a colorful modern style winged angel (bottom left) and stainless steel decorative fence (bottom right).

Conclusion

This research Paper has shown readers examples of non-commercial art works in both non-profit and for-profit public spaces, and given a preliminary analysis of their themes, styles, audiences and connection with history and culture of diverse ethnic communities in Los Angeles, California, and in some other cities across the United States. Further study is recommended for a deeper understanding of the same issues.