

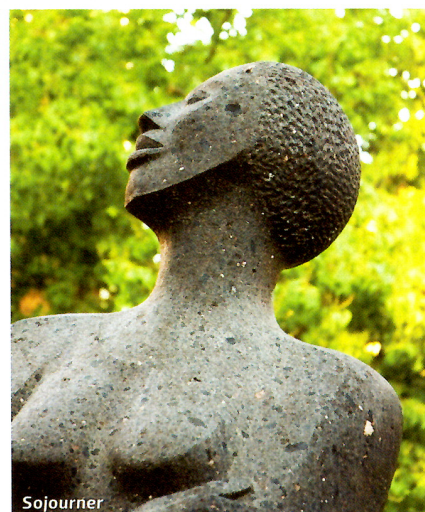
Art That's Pedestrian, Not Boring

If you've spent any time in downtown or midtown Sacramento, you've probably seen your fair share of public artwork. Maybe it caught your eye for a second as you headed out to lunch. Maybe you stopped for a minute to appreciate the artist's attention to detail. Tara Ingram isn't content to simply look. A custom software designer, Ingram recently started blogging about Sacramento's public artwork, which she refers to as pedestrian art because it can be seen and appreciated while traveling on foot.

On her website (sacpedart.com), she posts photos and information on pieces she discovers. A post on a limestone sculpture called *Sojourner* that honors abolitionist Sojourner Truth, for instance, included info on the sculptor, Elizabeth Catlett, and a map showing where to find the sculpture (at 13th and K streets, near Sacramento Convention Center).

Learning more about pedestrian art has increased Ingram's love and appreciation not just of artwork, but also of the city she calls home. "I've discovered that public art is a playful and meaningful way to get to know Sacramento," she says. And there's plenty of it: According to the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, there are 275 pieces of public artwork in downtown and midtown Sacramento. That number only covers pieces funded in whole or in part by SMAC; federal- and state-owned works in the downtown/midtown area total at least 100 pieces. Privately commissioned pieces, such as the multi-colored Fuller Paint Poles at 16th and Q streets, as well as urban tattoos, a term used to refer to freehand spray-painted murals not intended to be graffiti, aren't included in official numbers.

With such amazing local artwork to choose from, what's Ingram's favorite



Sojourner

piece? "*The Way Home*, the first one I wrote about for the blog, is my favorite," she says. The enameled copper tile installation by the late Fred Uhl Ball represents the different seasons of the Delta. Completed in 1980, the 1,488-piece display is located on the western side of the parking garage at 3rd and L streets. It was recently dismantled for restoration and should be back up before the end of the year.

—Corinne Litchfield

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