



MEDIA ADVISORY

Office of Cultural Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED SCULPTOR, TOM OTTERNESS, TO DISCUSS MAJOR NEW SCULPTURE AT SAN JOSE'S HAPPY HOLLOW PARK & ZOO

WHAT: Happy Hollow Park & Zoo in San Jose has been a part of Bay Area families since it opened in 1961 with its combination of children's rides, amusements, the Puppet Theater, play areas and an accredited Zoo featuring endangered species and a close contact area. The Park closed its gates after 46 years on July 9, 2008, for a \$72 million renovation. On March 20, 2010 it will reopen for new memories. The City of San Jose Public Art Program collaborated with Happy Hollow to select internationally-recognized artist Tom Otterness to create an artwork for the new entry plaza. The results consist of 17 camera- and video-friendly bronze elements each reflecting an aspect of the Park or the Zoo.

WHO: Tom Otterness will take part in a discussion to share inspiration and ideas behind his creations for Happy Hollow Park & Zoo. Staff from the City of San Jose's Public Art Program will also be available for comment.

WHEN: 6:15 p.m.
Friday, March 19

WHERE: Entry Plaza
Happy Hollow Park & Zoo
1300 Senter Road
San Jose, Calif.

BACKGROUND:

In 2000, voters approved Proposition P, the Parks Bond Act, which dedicated \$52 million to the renovation of Happy Hollow Park & Zoo. Over the years the project has gained an additional \$20 million from the C&C taxes fund and from savings from other Parks Bond projects. More about Happy Hollow can be found at www.hhpz.org. The artwork for Happy Hollow is the largest commission in the bond program. Tom Otterness' proposal was selected from a national artist call. Otterness, a native of Wichita, Kansas, has lived in New York City for nearly 40 years. He has developed public art projects throughout the U.S. and Europe, with many of the projects focusing on locations that engage children as well as adults. His public commissions can be found in parks, playgrounds, courthouses, and he has even designed a balloon for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. He has exhibited in museums including the Whitney Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh. More of his work may be seen at www.tomotterness.net.

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