

# San Francisco where now

The best in visual art, film, literature and day trips this month.

ART SCENE

## THE PUBLIC ART OF SAN FRANCISCO

BY GINA GOTSILL | PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF DIEHL

With all its modern gloss, it's easy to forget that San Francisco is an old city, at least by U.S. standards. A tour of its public art collection provides a surprising reminder, even to residents. Lotta's Fountain—a cast iron, bronze and glass landmark at Market and Kearny streets—has greeted the masses since 1875. You'll find plenty of contemporary works here too, and some of the biggest names in art.

### THREE DANCING FIGURES

Keith Haring's 1989 enamel on aluminum piece "Untitled" (Three Dancing Figures) vibrates with color and movement. Haring arrived on the New York City art scene in the 1980s wielding white chalk and transforming advertising panels in subway stations. His message of inclusion and activism resonates around the world. *de Young Museum entrance, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr.*



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### HALL OF JUSTICE

Ceramist and sculptor Peter Voukos' work can be found across the Bay Area. The San Francisco Arts Commission tapped him to create this towering abstract piece known as "Hall of Justice" in 1967. Voukos' legacy lives on through the countless artists he influenced. *7th and Bryant streets*

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### MAESTRAPEACE

Spend a few moments or a few hours exploring "MaestraPeace," the vivid murals that unfold across the walls of the San Francisco Women's Building. The 1994 mural's theme celebrates women's contributions to the world and includes images of Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu and artist Georgia O'Keefe. *35-43 18th St.*

"These local artists have gained inspiration from this city and have contributed to its vitality."

### UNTITLED

Vicki Sauls' "Untitled" cast stone critters invite kids of all ages to explore the ecosystems of San Francisco's natural environment. These are the animals that walk and fly in the bay and skies, magnified by about a thousand! *Golden Gate Park, Martin Luther King Jr. and Bowling Green drives*



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### TEMPLE

David Best's temporary "Temple" received such enthusiastic praise from Hayes Valley residents in 2005 that the San Francisco Arts Commission partnered with Burning Man to commission the installation in Patricia's Green again in summer 2015. The piece will be on view for one year, and visitors can write notes of remembrance on the artwork. *Octavia and Linden streets*

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### MECHANICS MONUMENT

One of San Francisco's most iconic bronze sculptures, "Mechanics Monument" by Douglas Tilden, once hailed the "Michelangelo of the West," was constructed to pay tribute to Peter Donahue's industrial legacy. Donahue founded the city's first iron foundry, street railway and gas company. Dedicated in 1901, the piece survived the 1906 earthquake and fire, as well as protests surrounding the modesty of its subjects. *Market, Bush and Battery street*

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### SYSTEMS MURAL PROJECT

The enormous red-brown wall in Mission Bay was calling San Francisco artist Brian Barnecko, and in 2011 he finally got permission to paint it. At 24,000 square feet, the mural is the city's largest. The work is a nod to systems thinking, a concept that analyzes interconnectedness. *7th and Townsend streets*

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Public Art  
7 Not to Miss