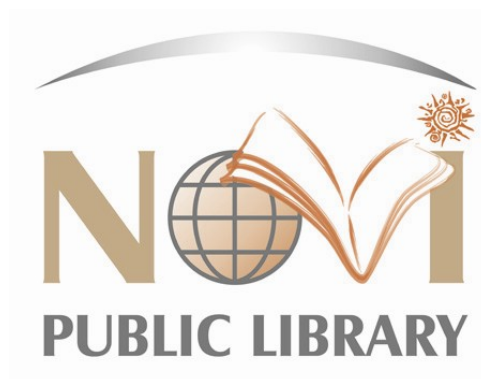


Art at the Novi Public Library



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“Art is the most intense mode of individualism that the world has known”

- Oscar Wilde

Welcome to the Novi Public Library!

This brochure is designed to guide visitors on a walking tour to view the many unique pieces of artwork throughout the Library and on the Library's grounds. On the floor plan below, find numbers indicating where various pieces of artwork are located. A description of the artwork and photos are included to help you learn more about the artists and their work.

Coming Soon: In late summer, the Library will introduce an audio version of this tour. Guests will have the opportunity to dial a phone number from a personal phone and tour the Library while their audio tour guide describes the various artwork throughout the building.



GLASS APPLES (21) - [Coming to the Library in mid June 2010](#)

The Library is also home to a beautiful sculpture of hand-blown glass apples, created by Richard Ritter. Richard is a graduate of Northville High School and the Center of Creative Studies in Detroit. His collections are showcased in the Detroit Institute of Arts, as well as an impressive variety of museums and galleries worldwide. The Library's apple sculpture celebrates the City's history of apple orchards and symbolizes knowledge, associated with many of the resources at the Library.



READING THROUGH TIME (22)

Michigan Artist, Stacy Schwartz designed and hand painted this intricate mural aptly titled, "Reading through Time". The mural shows transportation through history, including stories and items of local interest. Can you pick out the Novi landmarks or your favorite stories in this stunning three-wall panoramic mural?

Artwork on the Library's Grounds



THREE CHILDREN READING— MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE LIBRARY

As you enter the Library, you are greeted by a beautiful cast bronze sculpture of three children reading on a bench. This sculpture was designed by Randolph Rose of Yonkers, New York and donated by the Friends of the Novi Public Library.



THE LIBRARIAN—MAIN ENTRANCE DRIVE AT 10 MILE

Formed out of the international symbol for "library", The Librarian stands tall at the main entrance drive as cars enter from 10 Mile Road. This sculpture was designed by Jim Havens and is on loan to the Library until September 2010. A naming opportunity is available in order to keep her permanently on the grounds of the Library. For more information contact the Administration Office at (248)869-7204.



PREHISTORIC EARTH (5)

These tiles follow life on Earth through era and eons in a geological timeline and show the changing relationship between Earth and early life forms. These Life Tiles show the life of plants and animals from each geological area, often incorporating fossils from the era into the surface of the tile. This turtle tile symbolizes this relationship, showing a water turtle and a mollusk fossil from the Jurassic period.



WORLD CULTURES-1 (6)

This display begins in Asia, the world's largest continent. Asia contains 16.9 million square miles and is bound by the Ural Mountains, Mediterranean Sea, as well as the Indian, Pacific, and Arctic Oceans. Asia held mankind's first civilizations and is home to many populations, nations, religions, and cultures. This display starts with the early civilization in the Middle East, including Mesopotamia, Babylonia, and Persia, and continues through Islamic, Western Asian, and Southern Asian cultures. The Astronomer tile shows an early scientist studying the movement of stars using an astrolabe.



WORLD CULTURES-2 (7)

This display continues to showcase Southern Asian culture, focusing on India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nepal, among others. These countries are bordered on the north by the Himalayan Mountains between the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean. The final two rows in this display represent the southern Asian countries formerly part of the former USSR, including Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The elephant tile shows the Mahmud Palace in northern India during the 10th century.



WORLD CULTURES-3 (8)

The cultures of Southeast Asia are first shown in this display. This area ranges from the Himalayan Mountains south to the equator. It is a tropical region with larger river systems and fertile lands. It is home to a variety of cultures and a growing population, including the countries of Thailand, Vietnam, and Singapore. The tiles then move to Southwestern Asia. This area is located between the Southeast Asian mainland and Australia. It is a volcanic region with a monsoon climate and includes the countries of Java, Philippines, and Korea. The rice farming tile represents the backbreaking work of Vietnamese rice farmers and the beautiful Vietnamese landscape. The tile also includes a coin from Vietnam.



WORLD CULTURES-4 (9)

This display features the cultures of Eastern Asia, stretching from the Arctic to the equator. It contains approximately one third of the earth's landmass and 3/5 of the world's population. It includes the countries of China, Japan, and the Pacific Islands. The display first shows Chinese culture from ancient civilization from 5000 BC through today. The display then introduces the cultures of Taiwan, Mongolia, and Japan. The rich and colorful culture of this region is shown in the theater tile. It depicts a traditional mask and costume from the Beijing Opera from the 11th century.



WORLD CULTURES-5 (10)

In this display, the continent of Africa is revealed. Africa contains 12 million square miles of territory, with a variety of climates, environments, geography, and landforms. It also has a large variety of tribal cultures, economies, and religions, with 53 separate nations. This display first pictures the culture of Egypt, then tells the stories from Northern African cultures, including Tunisia, Ethiopia, Sudan, and Somalia. This next culture represented is that of Western Africa. This includes the richly diverse cultures of Mali, Ghana, and other countries.

The Life Tiles then move to the cultures of Central Africa, including the countries of Chad, Cameroon, and Congo. The journey through African culture continues to the Eastern and Southern African regions, including the countries of Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, and Zambia. The last row in this display moves us to the continent of Europe, starting with the classical civilization in Greece in Southern Europe. The "butterfly" mask tile shows a ceremonial costume used by the Bobo Tribe in Burkina Faso. This country is located between Mali and Ghana in West Africa and contains 60 different ethnic groups.



WORLD CULTURES-6 (11)

This display continues telling the story of Southern European culture, starting with a prehistoric figure from 1st century Cyprus and continuing through Greek culture. Many historians believe that Greek culture set the patterns for future western cultures. Next you will see the culture of the Roman Empire from 200 BC throughout the 1st century. The Roman Empire is known for its vast territory, laws, architecture, and technology. This is well illustrated in the Roman Legion Guard tile. It shows a Guard outside the 31 mile aqueduct in Nimes, France in the 1st century.



WORLD CULTURES-7 (12)

This display represents the culture of Central Europe in the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Age of Exploration, 18th Century, and the 19th Century. These time periods marked the beginnings of the modern eras of nation states, rebirth of learning, and the rapid expansion of commerce, art, and technology. The Michelangelo tile shows a portion of the Renaissance master's famous painting in the Sistine Chapel in Italy.



WORLD CULTURES-8 (13)

20th Century Europe comes alive in this display. It focuses on Spain and Italy through the 1980s, before moving to Southeastern Europe. The Life Tiles move through the Balkan states and then to Northern and Central Europe. The Thor tile represents part of the Norse Gods and ancient creation myths associated with Northern Europe.



WORLD CULTURES-9 (14)

This display explores the culture of Central and Eastern Europe, starting with the early Eastern Roman Empire and continuing through the 20th Century. This region shares a common culture influenced by the Eastern Orthodox Church and interaction with Eastern Asian neighbors. This area includes the countries of Germany, Russia, and Poland. The Royal Lipizzaner House tile shows the horses performing "Airs Above the Ground" in 1922 and includes an embedded coin representing these amazing animals.



WORLD CULTURES-10 (15)

This display continues the imagery of Central and Eastern Europe beginning with the Baltic states of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia. In the second row, we move to Western Europe. Western Europe is a land of many peninsulas, bounded by the eastern Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea. The Western European Life Tiles begin with an image of the ancient Celtic creation myth and move through the Dark and Middle Ages in Great Britain, France, and Belgium. The knight tile is an example of this culture. This tile represents the knights engaged in tournaments to demonstrate their military skill and chivalry.



WORLD CULTURES-11 (16)

This section begins with the image of a Gothic style cathedral in 10th Century France, showing the dominance of the Catholic Church in Western European culture. During this time period, there was a rapid rising of towns, new emphasis on education, scientific exploration, and commercial trade. The increased wealth and prosperity of this region is shown in "The Milkmaid" tile. It celebrates the detailed painting by Dutch painting master, Johannes Vermeer. Artists, like Vermeer, were in high demand to provide art to the growing middle class of merchants and traders. The embedded coin is from the Netherlands.



WORLD CULTURES-12 (17)

We continue to explore Western Europe in this display, with the Age of Enlightenment through the 20th century. This time period encompassed political, communication, industrial, and artistic revolution. A shining example of this time and place is best represented by the Eiffel Tower tile. Gustave Eiffel built this tower at the Paris Universal Exposition to honor the French Revolution. Note the French coin embedded into the tile.



OCEANIA AND POLES (18)

The cultures of Oceania showcase this display. Oceania includes the large area south and east of Asia in the South Pacific Ocean, including a continent and numerous islands. Various peoples have spread across the Pacific Ocean to new island settlements in a large variety of landforms and distinctive cultures, including Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, and Australia. The display continues with the cultures of the Polar Regions; the Arctic Circle region in the north and Antarctica in the south. The ecology and culture of this region are best shown in the scuba diver tile, which shows a diver exploring the Great Reef outside Australia. An actual coral fossil, composed of colonies of limestone polyps is embedded into this tile.



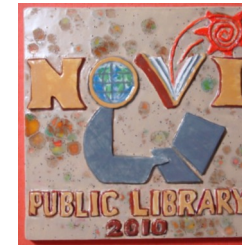
AMERICAS (19)

This display contains 345 tiles, encompassing the Western Hemisphere, including North America, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean Islands. It starts by illustrating Native American culture, then European influence on the Western Hemisphere, followed by Canadian culture. The United States is then explored through the Colonial, Revolutionary, Republic, Expansion, Civil War, and the Industrial periods, followed by a decade-by decade breakdown of modern American culture. Afterwards, the rich and diverse Pre-Columbian, Latin American, Caribbean Islands, Central American, and South American cultures are highlighted. The tile shown highlights a dance competition at an organized Pow-Wow, where tribal heritage and traditions are celebrated across the United States and Canada. Notice the embedded dream catcher in the bottom, left corner. Dream catchers are an authentic American Indian tradition, from the Ojibwa (Chippewa) tribe, used to protect sleeping children from nightmares.



PLANTS AND FLOWERS (20)

This display shows the different phylum, order, and subdivisions of plant life, starting with aquatic plants and ending with vascular plants. The rose tile depicts the well-known and loved flower. Roses are in a subclass of plants that have two seeded leaves and also include herbaceous perennials, annuals, trees, and shrubs.



LIFE TILES INTRODUCTION DISPLAY (1)

The Life Tiles collection consists of 1,600 different hand-crafted ceramic tiles created by local Artist, Educator, and long-time Novi Resident, Connie Lunski. The Life Tiles tell a unique visual story of our living universe from its beginning, billions of years ago, through our civilizations of today. The right section of the display showcases graphic and written descriptions of the Novi Public Library's Mission, Life Tiles concept, world cultures, and their interconnections.



The section left of the Introduction Display is the **Life Tile key**. It shows the interrelationships between the scientific domains and kingdoms which influence life on Earth by the use of design and color. A human symbol enclosed in a blue circle represents culture on earth. The surrounding bands of color each represent other intersecting forms of life found in the Life Tiles below in this display, as well as in the other Life Tile displays throughout the Library.

The first row of tiles under the key shows the domains of the Life Tiles. The second row represents the kingdoms. The phylum, class and order are shown in the following rows, as well as in the other tile displays. The black-colored tiles, represent the **Universe**, from the "Big Bang" theory to the planet, Earth. The terra cotta-colored tiles highlight the **Physical Geography** of Earth, including Earth's movement, structure, climate, and vegetation of its various regions. The orange-colored tiles illustrate **Archaea**, the ancient bacteria that are still found today living in extreme environments.



TREE OF LIFE

This display shows organisms from the simplest microscopic atoms at its roots, to the complex cultures of man at its canopy. Below the Tree of Life display are the white-colored **Virus** Life Tiles, further grouped by replication and genome type, DNA, and RNA. Further beneath are the blue-colored **Bacteria** Life Tiles, which are organized by a variety of changing classifications. Moving right to the purple-colored tiles, you will find the **Eucarya** Life Tiles, which includes algae, mildew, and kelp. Continuing right, are the green-colored **Plant** Life Tiles, ordered into aquatic, non-vascular, and vascular forms. Next are the orange-colored **Unikonts** Life Tiles, which include amoebozoan and fungi. The last grouping of burgundy colored tiles represent the **Animals**, including sponges, jellyfish, invertebrates, insects, crustaceans, and vertebrates.



ANIMALS (2)

This display showcases nearly 200 different invertebrates, crustaceans, centipedes, spiders, scorpions, insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Moving from left to right, you will see animal groupings by phylum. A great example of the craftsmanship is the frog life cycle tile.



STORIES (3)

This display includes art representing stories from the 14th century through modern times from Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North America. This theme is well illustrated by the puppet troupe tile. This tile depicts storytelling with puppets from 14th century Italy, where it was widely used for entertainment during fairs.



TRANSPORTATION (4)

This display illustrates different modes of transportation used throughout the world, ranging from early carts pulled by animals to space travel. A great example of the excitement of transportation is shown in the motorcycles tile. It offers a view of a 1990 motor cross race on grass in Luxemburg.