

# Public Artwork at Pacific Highlands Ranch Branch Library, *TEXT/TILE*

## About the Artwork

Artist Janelle Iglesias has created a permanent site-specific public artwork for the new Pacific Highlands Ranch Branch Library. Titled *TEXT/TILE*, the artwork is an immersive terra-cotta tile installation in the rear courtyard of the library. Each tile contains a letterform, and the overall installation acts as a wordfind, which spells out words in the languages of peoples who have inhabited the land where the library is sited: English, Spanish, and Kumeyaay. The words reference the native plantings planted in the courtyard in each of the three languages, as well as natural phenomena and words associated with the experience of visiting the library. Visitors to the library are invited to sit in contemplation in the courtyard until the words reveal themselves or can actively seek them out as a form of engagement, utilizing a key made by the artist. The medium of terracotta tiles refers to early libraries composed of clay tablets bearing cuneiform writing. The tiles connect the ancient and modern-day library, and the tile installation acts as a literal extension of the library housing the books inside. The artwork blurs the distinction between inside and outside, which is a design element of the library overall and aligns with the concept of the library's IDEA Lab, which focuses on archeology and paleontology.

## About the Artist

Janelle Iglesias is a Queens, New York-born artist living and working in San Diego, California. She received her BA in Cultural Anthropology from Emory University in 2002 and her MFA in Sculpture from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2006. Janelle's work can be described as site-sensitive, as it responds to architecture, place, history, and context. As an object-centric artist, she is invested in thingness, how objects and materials carry meaning, and how they facilitate outcomes depending on their exposure to circumstances. She creates unlikely sculptural situations, instigating new connections between objects from contradictory contexts. Janelle has exhibited her work as a solo artist and in collaboration with her sister Lisa Iglesias as Las Hermanas Iglesias at various institutions nationally and internationally.

## About the Department of Cultural Affairs

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