

PORTER McDONALD

Only in Tucson

Artist Vision:

A late summer evening, just before sunset.

Seven bristly javelinas trot westward toward a glowing Tucson skyline. Each critter carefully balances a small bungalow on its back. The architectural style is immediately familiar: deep, wide front porches beneath low roof lines held up by solid, thick columns that taper ever so slightly.

Suddenly, the disappearing sun reveals a grand finale, setting the clouds on fire with yellows and reds all radiating from the skyline of downtown.

And in that golden light the last javelina turns to look back, and you think:

“Only in Tucson...”

For this mural proposal, I chose to memorialize the careful relocation of seven historic Craftsman Bungalows located in the Sunshine Mile section of Broadway Blvd. Instead of demolishing the houses to make way for the new, the city approved a delicate and quite remarkable scotch back.

We are growing fast, and balancing that rapid change with a respect for and celebration of our unique culture is hard. I think a mural like this would be a beautiful way to not only honor our rich history, but also tell future developers that “Yes! This is how we do it in the Ol’ Pueblo.”



ASHLEY WHITE

Peace for All

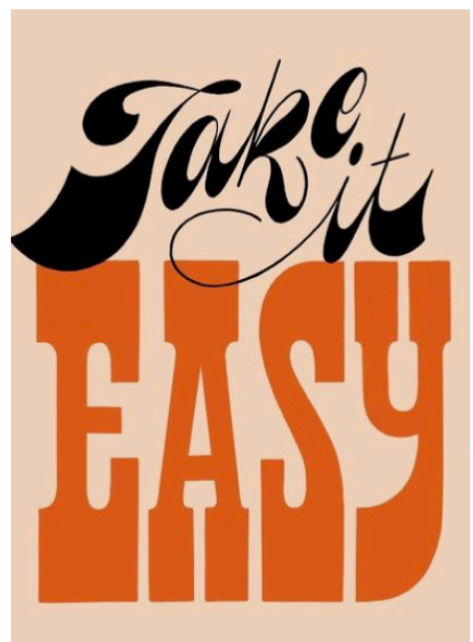
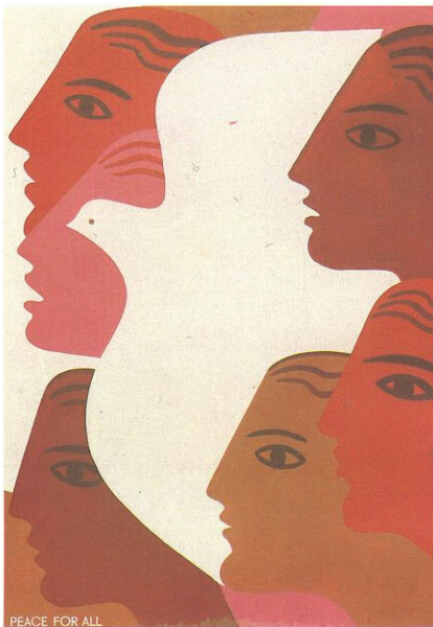
Artist Vision:

To me, "honoring the past" is remembering the strong sense of Optimism during the mid century. It was a time of growth and change, both economically and culturally; and there was an immense wave of creativity and new ways of thinking in architecture, art, and design.

Thinking about the future, I can see a strong parallel between the societal shifts made during the mid century and what we're going through today. With the uncertain future of the pandemic, we will need to find that sense of optimism - that we can grow together in a new direction that benefits us all. We will need to find new ways to adapt.

And out of this, I'm sure will come a whole new wave of creativity.
Optimism. Adaptation. Common Purpose. Growth. Creativity.

Looking at this specific wall, I would incorporate its unique aspects into the design. I think the increase in size from left to right lends itself to something representing the passage of time, going from the left in the past to the present and on to the future on the right. I also love the more segmented bricks on the right, and might propose something clever with those so it could work within the overall design.



GINA BECA

“We are all stronger than we think.”

Artist Vision:

My proposal is to create a simplified version of my original painting here and add a written affirmation. My artwork represents the ever-changing cycles of our beautiful desert community. It shows regrowth and hope for new beginnings with respect for our Mother Earth. A reminder that we are all stronger than we think!



OPENFORM

Geometric Patterns for the Sunshine Mile

Artist Vision:

The Sunshine Mile is Tucson's Modern District and recently recognized nationally as an historic place. The architecture, businesses, and culture are steeped in the past, yet moving decidedly forward. Reconstruction happening now will change the mile and bring it new life, yet with courageous effort by the community aspects of the past will be preserved. There is push and pull, give and take, past and future. The Sunshine Mile is a dichotomy.

Our vision builds on the visual identity of the Sunshine Mile, utilizing geometric shapes and patterns that nod to the historic architecture and peoples of the place while appearing new, fresh, bold, and modern. Geometric patterns create interesting visual effects, and black and white is a simple yet compelling palette. This mural concept would be unique in Tucson. Geometric murals are widely successful in major cities around the world, but new and modern for Tucson. Something proven yet new. Fresh. Bold. Yet tied inextricably to the past.

