

Jumping Trout

Artists - Violet Costello and Bob Thomasson

Jumping Trout is integrated into retaining walls in an underpass located at the interchange of Glenmore Trail, Elbow Drive and 5th Avenue in S.W. Calgary.

Jumping Trout is a repeating pattern of 144 fish swimming and jumping along waves in a river. Each trout is approximately 14 feet long and cast in pigmented concrete. The fish are relief sculptural forms bolted into panels representing water and sky.

Each panel of retaining wall contains two fish. The half of the panels above the wavy line represents the sky, and the jumping fish are more brightly coloured to create the illusion of being lit by sunshine. The swimming fish on the lower section of the panels are more muted to suggest trout submerged in water. The panels are also pigmented to represent the muted tones of the water.

Connection to the site and community

The images of fish the artists chose for this project represent two wild species which live in the nearby Bow River -- Rainbow trout and Brown trout.

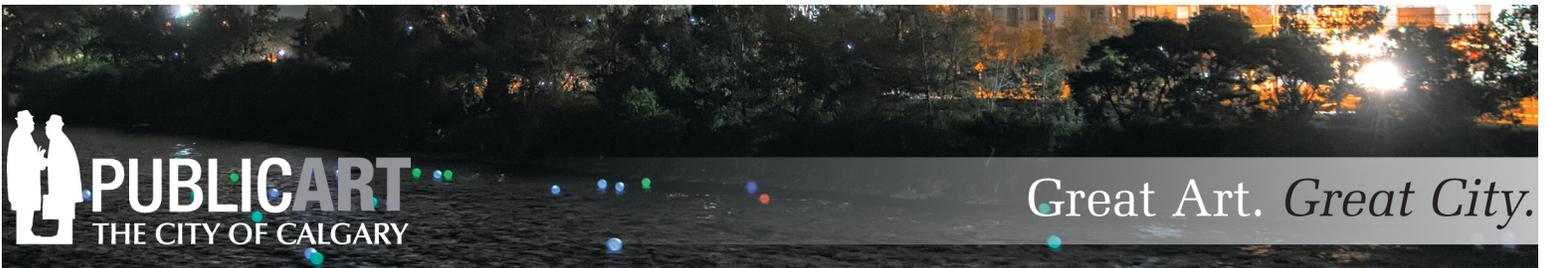


The fish images were chosen to celebrate the Bow River's reputation as one of the world's great trout fisheries. The fishery is a self-sustaining population of truly exceptional trout species. The fact that this renowned trout river runs directly through the center of a city of over one million people amazes Calgarians and visitors alike.

The Artists

Violet Costello has an Honours Diploma in 3-Dimensional Studies from the Emily Carr College of Art and Design, and an MFA in sculpture from Concordia University, Montreal. She taught sculpture while at Concordia, as well as at the University of Saskatchewan, in Saskatoon. She is on both the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the Calgary Arts Partners in Education Society artist rosters. She has received awards from Alberta Foundation for the Arts, British Columbia Culture, and Canada Council. Her large-scale sculptural installations have been exhibited throughout Canada.





Violet has collaborated with her partner Bob Thomasson on this and many other projects over the past 10 years. Bob graduated with a BFA from the University of Calgary in 1982. His artistic focus has primarily been large-scale 2-dimensional work. Together they have formed Costello Thomasson Inc. focusing more recently on outdoor sculpture, concrete and fiberglass.

The Project

- The artists were selected through an open call process.
- The artist fee for *Jumping Trout* was \$46,000. This commission covered the artwork design and artist's consultant fee.
- The project was a collaborative initiative by the Public Art Program and the Department of Transportation.
- The capital project which provided the funding was the construction of the Glenmore/Elbow/5th Avenue interchange.
- *Jumping Trout* was officially completed in December 2007.

