



THE INFINITE LIBRARY (2017)

The Infinite Library is a sculptural cabinet by Susan Simpson. Sited between the Young Adult stacks and Computer area inside Inglewood's Crenshaw-Imperial Library, this artwork celebrates the wonder and infinite possibilities in each library while engaging viewers to discover specific library experiences from around the world. Viewing the small scenes, we re-discover the wonder of close encounters, similar to entering a book.

The Infinite Library cabinet holds three dioramas and three peepshows depicting five actual libraries from around the world. Peepholes show three 'bookmobiles' carried by animals: an elephant in Thailand, burros in Columbia and a camel in Kenya. One diorama depicts a library boat that travels the Mekong River in Laos; one depicts a house full of books saved from a library in Basra, Iraq just before it was attacked. The artist's sixth diorama was inspired by Argentinian author Jorge Luis Borges' imaginary library in his collected short stories *Ficciones*.

Ms. Simpson purchased copies of her six source books so viewers can find them on the Library's reference shelf. The full bibliography may be found in this page's image cache.

Artist:

Susan Simpson

Collection:

City of Inglewood

Medium:

Sculptural diorama

Material:

Mixed media with woods, steel and internal LED lights

Size:

58" x 38" x 36"

Crenshaw-Imperial Library
11141 Crenshaw Boulevard
Inglewood, California

Susan Simpson

Susan Simpson is a Los Angeles artist and puppeteer. She works with toy theaters, display cabinets and kiosks that reveal hidden wonders in small spaces. In 2017 she was awarded a grant from the Jim Henson Foundation. She has exhibited her work in programs locally at the Los Angeles County Art Museum, Santa Monica Art Museum and REDCAT's NOW festival, and in venues across the United States and in Europe.

Ms. Simpson is also co-founder of Automata, the Los Angeles non-profit dedicated to the creation and presentation of experimental puppet theater, experimental film, and contemporary art practices centering on performing objects. She earned her MFA in Experimental Animation from California Institute of the Arts and her BA with Honors in Art from Brown University.

