



THE WRITTEN WORD (1972)

The Written Word is Tom Van Sant's public art treatment for three distinct concrete facades of the Inglewood Public Library. The work is cast into the concrete surfaces of the exterior stairwell column on Manchester; the lower level of an interior lobby; and an exterior wall of the Gladys Waddingham Lecture Hall.

Van Sant explores the development of written thought in numbers, letters, theories, and histories from diverse cultures in diverse times. Egyptian hieroglyphics, Polynesian counting systems, European cave painting, and Einstein's mathematical equations are some of the many images to inspire library patrons with the wealth of words found inside the library's walls.

Van Sant was commissioned through the National Endowment for the Arts Art-in-Architecture program to work with Civic Center architects Charles Luckman and Associates. This artwork required special molds built in reverse so the texts and drawings would be correctly read, a technique requiring a high degree of craft. *The Written Word* is one of the few examples of a poured-in-place concrete bas-relief in the Los Angeles basin and one of the largest to employ this technique in the world.

Artist:

Tom Van Sant

Collection:

City of Inglewood

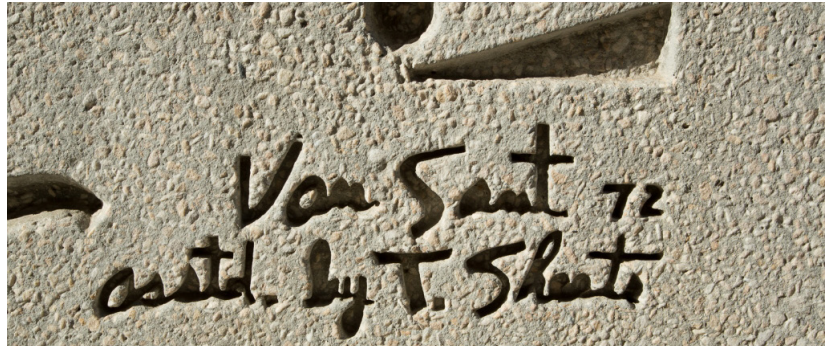
Medium:

Bas-Relief Sculpture

Material:

Poured-in-place concrete

Inglewood Public Library
101 West Manchester Boulevard
Inglewood, California



Tom Van Sant

Tom Van Sant is a sculptor, painter, and conceptual artist with major sculpture and mural commissions for public spaces around the world. His art is collected globally. His professional skills and interests include architecture, planning, education, an advanced technical invention.

Van Sant was a Fellow with the MIT Institute for Advanced Visual Studies and founder of the GeoSphere Project, the environmental display system for Earth's resource management. He has received numerous national awards for his work in art, architecture, astronomy and kite making. A polymath who earned his BA from Stanford University and MFA from Otis College of Art and Design, Van Sant was born in 1931. He resides in Pacific Palisades.





Construction Photo Courtesy of the Inglewood Public Library Collection above.

Top Left Stairwell Column on Manchester Boulevard

Left Lecture Hall Facade on the entry level



