

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 14, 2009

LARGE SCALE TROMPE L' OEIL MURAL IS INSTALLED IN THE
SACRAMENTO COUNTY JUVENILE HALL VISITORS LOBBY

Northern California muralist John Pugh's 29 foot mural titled *Extended Family* was recently installed at Juvenile Hall Visitors Lobby. Commissioned by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, Art in Public Places Program, the mural depicts giant oak trees, seemingly jutting through an open space in the buildings interior lobby ceiling. Visitors entering the lobby first perceive this illusionary arboretum-like painting as continued outside space.

When developing the mural's concept, the artist responded to the purpose of the visitors lobby, by creating a non-confrontational mural that will elevate the mood of often anxious family members coming to the site. The great oaks are perfect subtle metaphors for human relationships and personal growth, known as *trees of life* or *trees of knowledge*.

Pugh's known for his trompe l'oeil, or "trick the eye" public art murals, "I have found that the "language" of life-size illusions allow me to communicate with a very large audience. It seems almost universal that people take delight in being visually tricked. Once captivated by the illusion, the viewers are lured to cross an artistic threshold and thus seduced into exploring the concept of the piece."

A San Francisco Bay area artist who lives in Truckee, Pugh received his B.A. degree in art at Chico State. As a student he created a mural for the University's Taylor Hall, marking the debut of Pugh's signature style—exclusively illusionary painting. Pugh has painted more than a hundred murals throughout the United States, including; the entrance of a Palo Alto, California Medical Clinic; Anchorage Alaska High School auditorium; Boise, Idaho chasm between the new Boise Tower and the older Boise City National Bank; the Gunnison, Colorado Arts Center, and a controversial mural in 2005 in Bishop, California about the Owens Valley diversion of water from local use to Los Angeles. He is currently working on what will be the largest mural in the world in Dubai.

#