



ALAN STOREY

## out of thin air

Surrey Arts Centre, 13750 - 88th Avenue  
(2 panels inside, 3 outside - at each entrance)  
February 2004

Out of Thin Air is a set of five interactive copper panels that respond to changes in time and the passing of viewers. It is a highly imaginative, almost futuristic piece that employs, in part, a refrigeration unit to spell out words in frost on its surface. The word "dream" on one panel appears in many languages including Punjabi, Hindi, Coast Salish, English and French. Another panel features phrases associated with our five senses. Of the panels at the two entrances, one reveals images related to bear creek, while the other set references the building's architectural profiles. The installation was designed in cooperation with members of the Surrey Arts Centre's Architectural Consulting Team during the Centre's redevelopment.

Alan Storey has become widely known for "site-sensitive" public art projects. He uses new technologies and materials in innovative ways that depend to a great extent on the interactions of people passing by. His exhibition-based work has included a drawing machine that inscribed words as it navigated the walls of Vancouver's Or Gallery (1984); a small vehicle dragging five pens across a stretched canvas at the Southern Alberta Art Gallery (1989); an early website through which visitors could guide a drawing machine in Indiana (1995); and publicly located works of art using objects like elevator cars, a pendulum, a boardwalk and a bicycle.

One of the first recipients of the Artist-in-Residence in Research fellowship (a joint program of Canada Council of the Arts and the National Research Council), Storey is currently working on a number public art projects including Bellevue's City Hall, Richmond's Francis Road Pump Station, North Vancouver's Capilano Community Centre and is serving as a consultant for the Vancouver General Hospital's boiler plant project.

City of Surrey Public and Community Art Collection

