

ZAP 12 Design Philosophy - Aniko Doman, mural artist

ZAP 12 on Mt. Charleston - Kyle Canyon Utility Box Art

The design decision for my three utility boxes was to make them more visible instead of camouflaging them into their beautiful surroundings. I wanted to take away their utilitarian ugliness and make them more memorable by taking advantage of the surfaces they provided for artwork in nature.

I wanted to paint images that reflected my decades worth of wonderful memories of Mt. Charleston, and my love of this very unique area in our desert - the colors of the seasons, the textures of the endemic trees and plants, the sounds of the wind and birds in the canyons, the smell of wet sage and pine trees whirling in a thunderstorm... and the occasional sightings of the elusive mule deer. I wanted to capture that awe-inspiring moment when one happens upon a doe or a stag on a hiking trail.

The designs are combinations of fragments of my memories, shapes of living things that are simple yet impressive to my senses. Rather than focusing on a larger view of the landscape, I wanted to bring smaller things into focus. Such as the vibrant colors and delicate textures of bristlecone and pinyon pines, creosote and sage brush, juniper, manzanita, quaking aspen and other native plants, shrubs, grasses and flowers as well as smaller animals like the Palmer's chipmunk, rock wren, mountain chickadee and the white-breasted nuthatch. The stylistic presentation of the deer was chosen to emphasize their elegant faces and beautiful eyes.

I wanted all details to be clearly visible and quickly recognizable for passengers of cars passing by, hence the slightly larger-than-life-sized animals and oversized plants and flowers.