

**Betsabeé Romero**  
**From Tires to Totems**  
**“Traces in Order to Remember”**  
**An Exhibition for all on**  
**JFK Promenade**  
**[www.betsabeeromero.com](http://www.betsabeeromero.com)**

**Presented by the San Francisco**  
**Recreation and Park Department**  
**Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**



**Betsabee Romero's work has been celebrated with more than 100 exhibitions including Mexico City, London's Kew Gardens, Paris' Palais du Louvre, Buenos Aries, New York's Park Avenue, and soon, our own San Francisco**



For more than 20 years, Betsabeé Romero's work has specialized in the elaboration of a critical discourse about issues such as migration and mobility, through the reappropriation of symbols and daily rituals of the global consumer culture, such as cars, tattoos, urban signage, etc.

She has participated in numerous residencies and international exhibitions from Bangalore India, to Bogota Columbia, and Romero's work is part of important collections including the British Museum, Davos in Switzerland, MOCA in Los Angeles and more.

In addition to her vast catalogue of work and residencies, Romero's passion for community and art making with young artists the Big Print Project on Granville Island, BC embolden our youth to be creative and celebrate diverse cultures.



Le retour des soleils, Plaza of the Louvre, Paris

**"I use these tires to dignify the memory, precisely, of the migrants who have passed such a long and difficult path," explains the visual artist, who invites passersby to "see them, even touch them" and, addressing the thousands of migrants who live in the Big Apple, to feel appreciated. from LatAm ARTE March 25, 2024**



The proposed installation includes the five pieces in “*Traces in Order to Remember*” previously installed along Park Avenue in New York City, complementing the lighted “*Le retour des soleils*” from the Palais du Louvre along Golden Gate Park’s Promenade from Kezar to Nancy Pelosi Drive.



**WARRIORS IN CAPTIVITY**



**ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS**



**WARRIORS IN CAPTIVITY III**



**Moon Seal**



**RUBBER AND FEATHERED SNAKES**

Romero's sculpture sculptures play with the meanings of materials, re signifying the form and function of everyday objects, particularly parts of cars and other vehicles. By carving symbolic designs into recycled tires, etching on convex safety mirrors, and other found objects, she creates artworks that reference ancient motifs and evoke reflections on movement.

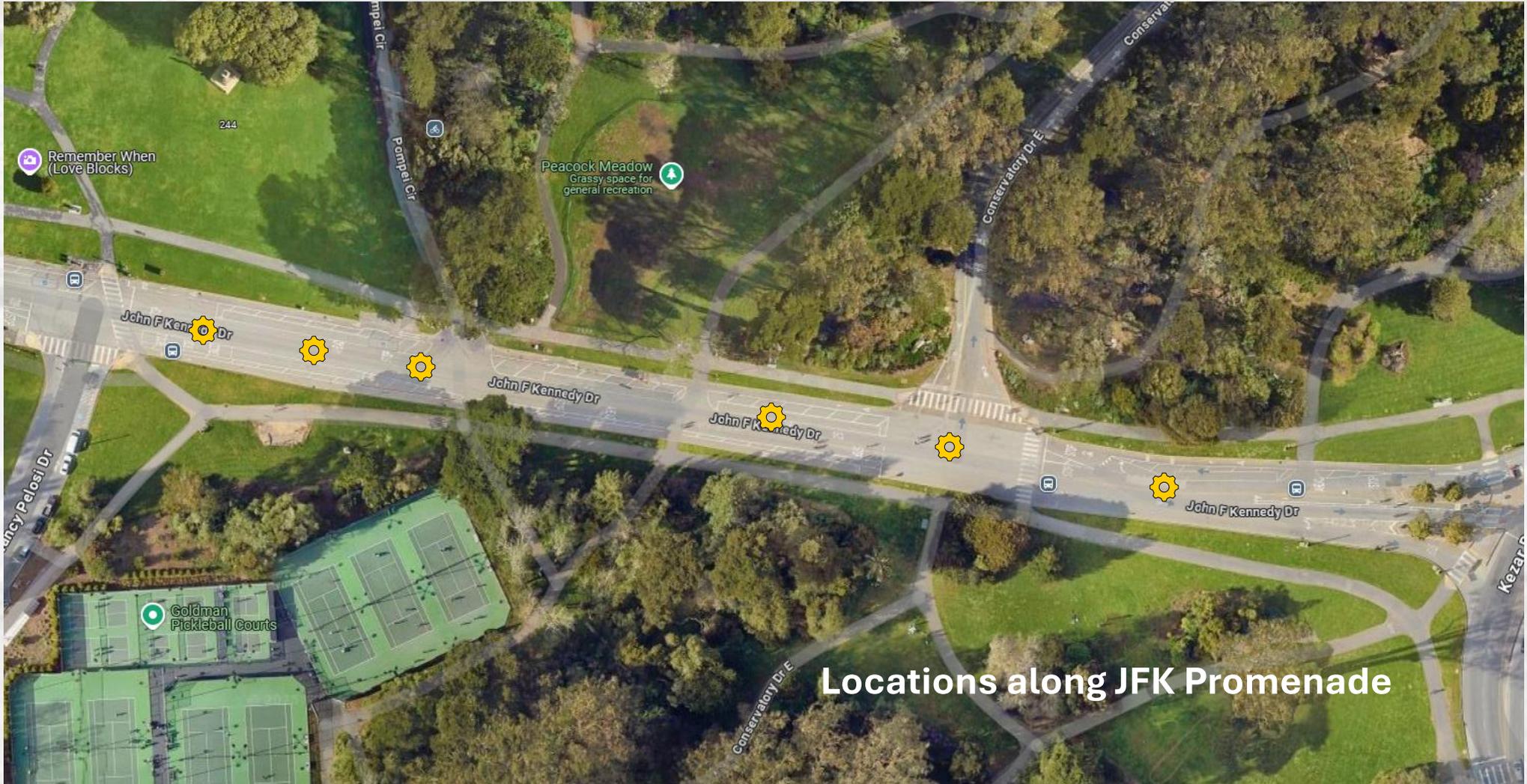


**Le retour des soleils  
Palace de Louvre**

**\*LE RETOUR DES SOLEILS\***

Suns and mirrors  
Sky and architectural rosettes  
Rays through the layers of a city and endless time  
Circles bathed in air, water and light  
Network of connected stars  
Suns that do not slip away from each other,  
Radial shields, fraternizing in a new dawn  
Writing tattooed on mirrors with long stories  
Suns rising the day after immense lonely nights  
Suns revealed by the writing of ancestral cultures  
Stars united in a circle of light  
City illuminated by the radiance of aggregating cultures  
Star weaving, facing disease and the empire of the night

This installation repurposes objects created for transportation and industry. Incorporating these elements and installing them on one of the most important streets in the epicenter of global art world seems to be reflective of the artist's personal journey. As a progression for the work, temporarily installing the pieces along JFK could be considered a metaphor for our own Promenade's existence. The next incarnation or evolution of art, and of space.



# Installation along Park Avenue, New York



## Maintenance Plan: Art in a public space



### **Materials:**

#### **Le retour des soleils:**

**Metal, etched mirrored surfaces with a black metal base.**

**The sculpture base can be repainted, with the sculpture surface cleaned with Goof Off.**

#### **Traces, in Order to Remember**

**Rubber and Wood**

**Painted and etched surfaces**

**\*If graffiti is an issue, the plan is to coat the rubber tires with a transparent graffiti coating using standard graffiti abatement goof off to remove the spray paint. Metallic paint will also be on hand for volunteer participants to apply graffiti abatement techniques. We found the current installations received tagging in the early stages of the installation however this graffiti abated over time.**

**RPD will have a full engineering report, install counterweights and intend to bolt the bases of the sculptures to the promenade.**

**The eastern most sculpture will be bolted, but will also be equipped to be forklifted off the promenade when larger foot races need to activate.**

Betsabee Romero has a love of community and as an extension of the installation we will leverage a visit by the artist to our promenade for an art-making exhibition. Be it children's activities with take-away elements, or a larger art-making experience for all ages, this partnership would gather San Franciscans from across the city to further enjoy Golden Gate Park. Partners include RPD Cultural Arts team, Jamestown community center and more.



# Art Making Inspires All



**We propose bringing kids of all ages to the promenade, in addition to the artist visiting recreation center(s) for hands-on activities**

**Betsabee Romero  
Creating with Children**



**Thank you!**

**Betsabee Romero; An international artist rooted in a sense of place; wherever that place may be.**

**Exhibitions-** British Museum, The Grand Palais, Paris, Royal Botanical Gardens, Nevada Museum of Art USA, Canberra University Museum, Australia, Buenos Aires Argentina, Dubai, USA, Canada, currently installing an exhibition in Japan.

**Collections-**In Museum and personal collections in the USA, United Kingdom, Irish Museum, Mexico, Canada, Switzerland and beyond