



Title: Orit Haj

Year: 2012

Artist/Team: Didier Hess

Location: Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park Interpretive Center, Agua Dulce, CA

Art Budget: \$52,000

Materials: Rammed earth, stainless steel rod, concrete and concrete fiberboard scraps from building construction

Dimensions: 7'1" w x 22'10" l x 4' h

Client: Los Angeles County Arts Commission

Architect: Gruen Associates

Description: Orit Haj are indigenous words from the Tataviam language which translate to river and mountain. Much the way the Tataviam culture and its language have dissolved into time leaving behind inspiring artifacts and legends in people's memories, so too this artwork will transform and dissolve with time. The sculpture evokes the shape of the unique formations at Vasquez Rocks and will bridge the natural earth forms to the angular language of man-made Interpretive Center. The tactile sculpture will be inviting to the human hand to touch it and visitors to climb on it. The durability of rammed earth can last for hundreds of years and so the sculpture will be designed to gradually erode over the course of the next 25+ years. As people return at various points in their lives to visit Vasquez Rocks, the sculpture will be changing, their contours and the artifacts they contain altering in response to both human and natural forces.