

LET'S TALK ART

- *First in a Series About Public Art in Beverly Hills*



The City of Beverly Hills is committed to the arts to enrich its community life, ignite imagination, encourage thought and prompt conversation and debate. In its display of over 60 pieces, including sculptures, paintings and photography, there is an eclectic collection of public art throughout the City for all to enjoy. The Public Art Program was established to meet the City's commitment to public art and is overseen by the Fine Art Commission. The Public Art Fund is used to purchase art and is funded through donations and developers. (Developers are obligated to provide art or make an in-lieu payment to the fund which is a percentage of their project cost.)

Let's explore. Our first piece in this series is a popular piece among residents and visitors. *Endless V* by Jaume Plensa is an 8' x 8' x 7' stainless steel sculpture of a seated human, made up of letters and characters of eight different languages. *Endless V* is located in Beverly Gardens Park on Santa Monica Boulevard between Beverly Drive and Rodeo Drive. *Endless V* was acquired by the Fine Art Commission in 2012 for \$350,000 and dedicated to the City in January, 2013.

Jaume Plensa is a world-renowned sculptor working in the public space, with over 30 projects spanning the globe in such cities as Chicago, Dubai, London, Liverpool, Nice, Tokyo, Toronto, and Vancouver. His work can also be seen in museums and galleries in the USA, Europe and Asia.

Over the past 25 years, the artist has produced a rich body of work in the studio and the public realm. By combining conventional sculptural materials (glass, steel, bronze, aluminum) with more unconventional media (water, light, sound, video), and frequently incorporating text, Plensa creates hybrid works of intricate energy and psychology. Plensa's work is invested in evoking emotion and stimulating intellectual engagement.

Some interpret *Endless V* as mankind coming from different cultures and speaking different languages, yet we are all made of the same material. What is your interpretation?