



**News Release**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Amorphic Robotic Inflatable Sculpture Greets Visitors on San José City Hall Plaza during Game Week**

*Public art senses and responds to people during special SB50 unveiling*

**SAN JOSE, Calif.** – Rising 40 feet from the ground and arching across an imaginary border before forming a bridge and touching down on the “other side,” *Border Crosser* is the first of a series of large-scale inflatable robotic sculptures that poetically explore the notion of borders by artist Chico MacMurtrie/Amorphic Robot Works.

Presented by ZERO1 and supported, in part, by the City of San José Office of Cultural Affairs and the Lucas Artists Programs at Montalvo Arts Center, *Border Crosser* will publicly debut on the plaza of San José City Hall January 31 - February 7 in the week leading up to SB50.

“Art on City Hall Plaza is an important activation strategy for the City to engage employees and the larger community,” said Deputy City Manager/Economic Development Director Kim Welsh. “ZERO1 has been a key partner in many of these activations around art and technology. We’re thrilled to be able to present this new work by Chico MacMurtrie.”

*Border Crosser* alludes to the equality of all humans and the desire for more connection. As a peaceful metaphor, *Border Crosser* engages with San José’s long running history of diversity and innovation, inviting the public to rethink the notion of borders in a globalized world.

MacMurtrie has deep roots in the Bay Area and San José in particular as his works were featured at the 1998 opening of The Tech Museum and at the ZERO1 Biennials in 2010 and 2012. In 2012, he and his collaborators, Geo Homsy and Bill Washabaugh, won the [San Jose’s Climate Clock](#) competition with *Organograph*, a proposed 75-foot tall kinetic sculpture that responds to climate change.

“We are pleased to have the opportunity to feature *Border Crosser* in San José during a time when thousands of visitors will be experiencing downtown, as it is a socially provocative new installation that intersects art with an immensely relevant social issue and enables a platform for greater discourse,” remarked ZERO1’s Executive Director Joel Slayton.

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This will be the first interaction visitors will get with *Border Crosser*, but not the last. The sculpture will return to the Bay Area in fall when it will be featured as part of the 2016 ZERO1 Biennial.

Chico MacMurtrie/ARW would like to thank Dyneema® for their generous support of the *Border Crossers* project and to Arizona State University Art Museum and Herberger Institute School of Art for their help and support in getting the project created.

**Install and Activation times**

Installation January 29-30th

Activated on Plaza January 31<sup>st</sup>- February 7<sup>th</sup>. See full hours at [bit.ly/1ZRMBWU](http://bit.ly/1ZRMBWU)

**Opening Reception at City Hall Rotunda**

February 3rd

5:00pm - 7:00pm



Conceptual rendering of *Border Crosser* by Chico MacMurtrie/ Amorphic Robot Works

**About Chico MacMurtrie**

For the last 30 years MacMurtrie / Amorphic Robot Works (ARW) have been creating metaphors with machines. MacMurtrie's artistic inquiry is inspired by organic systems and by the desire to understand fundamental aspects of the human condition through dynamic technological bodies. Since 2005, MacMurtrie/ARW have focused on developing "soft machines" or inflatable robotic sculptures that engage their environment through cyclical air exchange and metamorphic transformation.

**About ZERO1**

ZERO1 is a Silicon Valley arts organization connecting creative explorers in art, science, and technology to provoke new ideas that shape a more resilient future. As a 21st century arts nonprofit, ZERO1 works with some of the world's most creative minds from the fields of art, science, design, architecture, and technology. ZERO1 produces the ZERO1 Biennial, an international showcase of work at the nexus of art and technology and is also the force behind the ZERO1 Fellowship program, where principles of artistic creativity are applied to real world innovation challenges. [Visit zero1.org](http://visitzero1.org).

**About the City of San José Office of Cultural Affairs**

The Office of Cultural Affairs is the City's lead agency for supporting and promoting the development of a rich arts and cultural environment for this diverse city's nearly one million residents, its workers who live in neighboring communities, and its many visitors. It fosters cultural development through cultural funding programs, cultural workforce development, special event services, and public art. For more information visit [www.sanjoseculture.org](http://www.sanjoseculture.org).

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**About the City of San José**

Known as the Capital of Silicon Valley, San José is the nation's tenth largest city, and the largest city in Northern California, with an ethnically diverse population of more than one million. San José was founded in 1777, once served as the state capital of California, and now encompasses 180 square miles. Facts about San José can be found here: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/780>. The City's website is [www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov).

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