

## Ann Wallace's *Glorieta*

A permanent installation in San Antonio's Brackenridge Park

Walking through the woods in Brackenridge Park, on the compressed gravel path, the roundabout comes into view. A tree cast in bronze occupies the center— *Glorieta*.

**Anne Wallace**, the artist who created this outdoor aesthetic encounter, got shout-outs by critics at the recent Writer's and Artists Exchange (the WAX conference) for her South Presa sidewalk installation. Like the sidewalk installation, which was embedded with neighborhood storytelling, *Glorieta*, is also informed by the history of its site. To cast her piece Wallace reclaimed a pecan tree that had collapsed in the woods and sliced it into rings. By balancing her bronze pieces on their sides and placing them inside the roundabout, they appear to want to roll away like bicycle wheels. Some rings are hollow from disease, creating irregular star-shaped absences that relate her work to the upended donut of another famous park sculpture—Isamu Noguchi's *Black Sun* in Seattle. Lumps of limestone boulders lay in the circle nearby, lethargic counterpoints to the fallen tree whose pieces are now energetically *en pointe*.

The word "glorieta" is Spanish for "roundabout," but also means "paradise." With the help of architects from Rialto Studio, the firm commissioned to redesign Brackenridge Park, Wallace planted fragrant laurel trees at the circular intersection of paths, ringing the inner circle with trees that sprout fat pink blooms. She chose the tree for its name, Forest Pansy Redbud, a nod to the park's status as a popular cruising spot for the local gay community. But these incidentals are lost on the average visitor who will simply notice the arrangement of natural elements and bronze sculpture. The installation will only improve as the trees bloom and their petals activate the air.

...might be good

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