

Libraries for All, Montlake Branch, *Skylight Aperture Sundial*

Artist Rebecca Cummins

Funding Libraries for All Bond 1% for Art

Completion Date 2006

Location Montlake Branch, Seattle Public Library
2401 24th Ave. E.
Seattle, Wash.



Sundial skylights

Background The 5,652-square-foot Montlake Branch is the 19th project completed under the “Libraries for All” voter-approved building program. In 1998, voters approved a \$196.4 million bond measure to fund improvements to all 22 existing branches, build new branches in underserved areas and construct the Central Library, which opened downtown in May 2004.

Artist's Current Residence Seattle, Wash.

Artwork Name *Skylight Aperture Sundial*

Media Glass, steel and light

Dimensions Various

Description Glass discs in the ceiling project colorful spotlights that float through the library as the sun appears to move across the sky. Markings on the floor indicate the position of solar noon from the spring to autumn equinox. The projected light from the first orange circle is designated the “aperture nodus” for the sundial, and its path is marked on the floor below to indicate both clock noon and solar noon.

Artist's Statement The concept for this aperture sundial evolved while I was observing the library architectural model on a heliodon (a “sun machine” that simulates the sun’s path for various times of day and year.) Light tracks in wondrous and often surprising ways; it was exciting to watch the simulated sunlight glide through the proposed space. I aspired to communicate this movement in the artwork.