

A project of [CURRENT: LA Water](#), the Los Angeles public art biennial at the Bowtie Project, on view Thursday – Sunday, 5:30 pm to sundown until August 14th

The Bowtie Project
2780 W. Casitas Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90039 ([map](#))

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Images: <https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B-iIEQUyjt44cXN5SzA3VEdvdzQ&usp=sharing>

TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART PROPOSES PERMANENT WATER SAVING

Mel Chin invites people to grow their own part of a massive Land Art project. The Private and Public collection of art can conserve millions of gallons of water each year. 512 unique blueprints of garden plans, signed by the artist, offered FREE to potential collectors at the *CURRENT: LA Water* site.

Mel Chin's new project, The TIE that BINDS: MIRROR of the FUTURE—a work of Land Art that you can grow and own in your yard—invites you to connect to the site of the Bowtie Project, to hundreds of other people throughout Los Angeles, and to water conservation.

The Bowtie Project is untended urban wilderness that sits above a rare, naturalized stretch of the LA River. Overgrown with invasive plant species that compete with existing native plants, it is in a current state of transition between its past as a railroad maintenance yard and its future as an urban state park.



Demonstration garden at the Bowtie Project and "mirror garden" in Brentwood

A visit to the Bowtie Project will reveal the beginning of *The TIE that BINDS* in eight, water-saving, California-native demonstration gardens on the site that are reflected in eight mirror gardens in private and public locations throughout Los Angeles. Each of the gardens is surrounded by a shaped grid (derived from LA River wildlife species) that floats above the ground, indicating possible expansion plots for additional native plantings. *The TIE that BINDS* Field Office offers information regarding the eight demonstration gardens at Bowtie, documentation of “mirror” gardens currently growing in yards of homeowners and institutions in LA, and most importantly, garden plans for homeowners to plant their own mirror garden.

Those who commit to growing a Tie that Binds mirror garden receive a unique, artist-designed blueprint, a list of native plant species, and instructions on how to grow a garden that requires little or no watering. Mirror Sites have already been installed in homes in Brentwood, Porter Ranch, Sun Valley, Boyle Heights, South LA and at Occidental College, and LACMA will install their mirror garden next week. With 512 blueprints distributed to visitors, the collective effect of water-savings expands with each newly planted garden.



Garden at Bowtie (left) and mirror garden at Occidental College (right)

The Tie that Binds mirror gardens fulfill the potential of a living sculpture that is collectively owned by the public and inspires not only the future of the Bowtie Project, but also the future of the city. Initiated at the Bowtie and propagated throughout Los Angeles, this land art project is no longer just temporary, but becomes a permanent relationship between people, plants, and place designed to address water conservation, the most critical challenge facing Californians today.

The *TIE that BINDS* The Tie that Binds was Commissioned by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) for CURRENT:LA Water, the City's inaugural Public Art Biennial. The project is realized in partnership with the California State Parks and Clockshop. The landscape concept and garden designs are a collaboration between the artist Mel Chin, landscape architects Calvin Abe and Glen Dake, with advice from Lili Singer of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants. Garden installations and additional support provided by Pierre Landscape with plants generously supported by Village Nursery. Additional partners include designer Tom Kracauer, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, USC Roski School of Art and Design, and Otis College of Art and Design.

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