The drawings for this book were created by artist Cheryl Molnar and inspired her glass mosaic mural, “Birds in Flight,” a commission by the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture for the High Desert Restorative Care Village in Lancaster, California. Molnar’s artwork is created by re-imagining the environment—taking real-life elements such as architecture and local fauna and composing them into new, but familiar, landscapes.

Molnar’s artistic process begins with documentation, and photographing landscapes from her everyday travels. These photographs are digitally stitched together, combining landscapes with architectural structures from various “memories”. This process is intended to replicate human recollection: we confuse place and time, structures bleed together. Molnar’s collages represent the improbable landscapes of memory, given physical shape.

“Birds in Flight” was inspired by the artist’s experiences in the High Desert region and surrounding area. Molnar captured the warm golden light that intensifies the unique desert palette during the golden hours of sunrise and sunset. The desert also offers expansive vistas that conceptually reflect opportunity and possibility. Natural vegetation and wild plants symbolize growth and renewal.
This artwork has been commissioned by the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture whose mission is to advance arts, culture, and creativity throughout Los Angeles County, envisioning a region in which arts, culture, and creativity are integral to every aspect of civic life for all people and communities.

The Department of Arts and Culture’s Civic Art Division provides leadership in the development of high quality civic spaces by integrating artists into the planning and design process at the earliest possible opportunity, encouraging innovative approaches to civic art, and providing access to artistic experiences of the highest caliber for the residents of LA County. Working with leading artists, emerging public artists, County departments, and communities, Civic Art creates artwork, design, public engagement activities, exhibitions, temporary art, and event-based programming for new and renovated facilities throughout LA County.

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