

Jacob Navas

ENG 104

Professor Curtis-Cummins

2 November 2018

A Tiger on Campus

Since I was young I loved Tigers. When I was about 3 or 4 I chose to be Tigger, the overly hyper tiger from *Winnie the Pooh*, for Halloween. They have always been my favorite animal and will continue to be throughout my whole life. *Calvin and Hobbes* will always be my favorite comic strip. Tigers are very comforting and remind me of home and simpler times, so when I see one it's super calming for me. Ever since I saw the Tiger statue outside of the SFSU campus library (San Francisco State University), I have felt at home and protected on campus. I pass it every Monday and Wednesday on the way to class and it gives me a warm feeling whenever I see it. The first time I saw it, I pointed it out to my mom because I liked the way it looked, carefully constructed with hundreds of different colored glass pieces. Seeing that tiger, I knew I should come pursue my career at this university. It does have somewhat of a bittersweet effect on me since it does make me miss home more and more, but overall a feeling of safety comes whenever I see the sculpture.

In my opinion, this tiger was made as a symbol of diversity and protection over the SFSU campus and was meant to keep watch over all of the students here at state. I think the tiger is supposed to have the "safety and protection" effect on every freshman here because he is positioned right by the library which is a place students tend to stress the most. I think the artist who created this piece wanted it to create a feeling of comfort for all freshman and others who

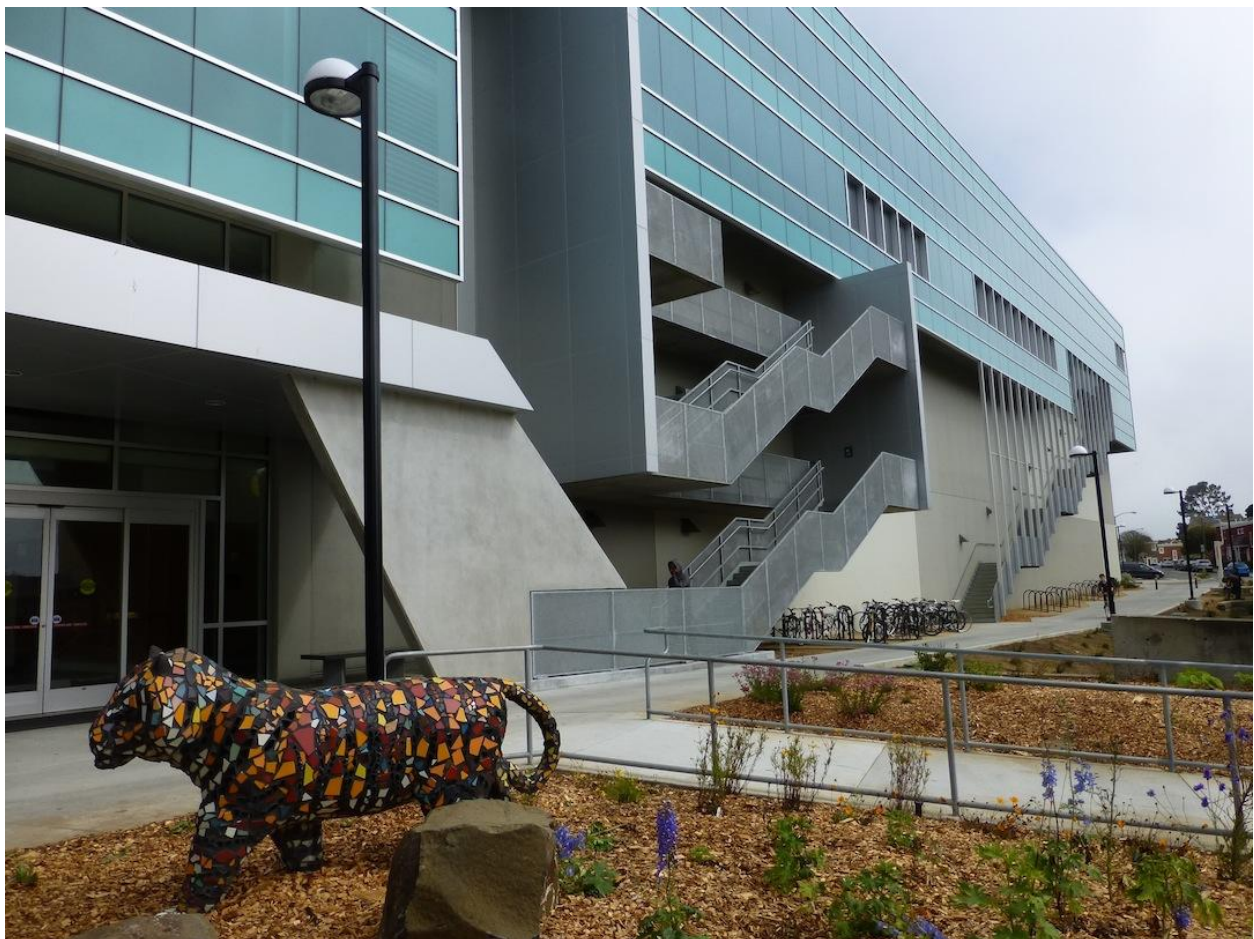
have seen it. I was never able to find the artist who created this piece, but I'm sure this tiger was put here for a reason, whether that was to remind students this is an open minded and accepting campus, or to make students feel safe and at home.

The sculpture is made of different colored glass pieces, therefore it is a mosaic, which is why I think this piece symbolizes diversity. All the different colors are meant to symbolize the different people that come to this school. I think the Tiger overall symbolizes protection because a tiger is a very protective animal. According to Whatismyspiritanimal.com, "Tiger imagery represents the ability to manage strong emotions more effectively" which would make sense as to why this tiger statue is on our campus. This website also said tigers act as a "powerful reminder of overcoming obstacles and fears by reclaiming your place of power" which is very strong symbolism to me (whatismyspiritanimal.com, Tigers). The colors mainly seen in this sculpture are a lot of warmer colors such as reds, oranges, yellows, and blacks, which also carry warm attributes. Warmer colors tend to symbolize emotions such as excitement and happiness, or completely contrasting feelings, anger and violence. This sculpture doesn't seem very violent, so I am assuming these warm colors are supposed to give off happy and excited vibes.

The library, to many students is a place of stress and work. When we go in, we remember all of the work we have to do and it is a place where everyone is on edge. Midterms, homework, speeches, or essays, everyone in the library is working on something that is stressing them out. I think the tiger being in front of the library is used as a reminder for these stressed out students. When they are going into the library the tiger is there to tell them everything will turn out fine, and when students leave the library they feel at ease and accomplished so it is there to tell them they can relax and they worked hard. I think they also put this here because it is on the opposite

side of campus as the large Gator statue that is in front of the gym. This sculptures intended audience is students of SFSU, and any other people who tend to see it such as teachers, or anyone in the SFSU community.

I really like this sculpture because it was hard to find the true information on it, so I had to think very hard into what this sculpture was and why it is on our campus. Ever since I first saw it I felt safe and comfortable here at this school. I'm also interested in hearing the artist's point of view for this piece, but I never was able to find out who created it. Everytime I pass by this sculpture it reminds me of home and I hope it has somewhat of the same effect on other students who pass by it as well.



Works Cited

“Tiger Symbolism & Meaning | Spirit, Totem & Power Animal.” *What Is My Spirit Animal | Spirit, Totem, & Power Animals*,
whatismyspiritanimal.com/spirit-totem-power-animal-meanings/mammals/tiger-symbolism-meaning/.

Bear, Jacci Howard. “What Do the Different Colors Mean for Graphic Artists?” *Lifewire*,
www.lifewire.com/color-symbolism-information-1073947.