

Sun Yat-sen

San Francisco, United States of America

Nested in the small St. Mary's Square in San Francisco's Chinatown is a Beniamino "Benny" Bufano sculpture of Dr. Sun Yat-sen. Bufano was an Italian American sculptor renowned for his large-scale works, most often representing peace. The artist met and became friends with Dr. Sun Yat-sen during a two-year trip through China in 1920. While in China, Bufano learned the art of terra-cotta glazing, which became one of his favorite media. In the 1930s, Bufano settled in California, where he worked on numerous sculptures, including a number for the Federal Art Project. To commemorate Dr. Sun Yat-sen's 1911 visit to San Francisco while he was in political exile, the business leaders of Chinatown commissioned Bufano to sculpt this 14-foot-tall red granite and stainless steel statue. The sculpture was completed in 1937 and placed in the square, which was fitting location, as the exiled leader visited it often during his trip to San Francisco to relax. Artist Benny Bufano is pictured at work in his North Beach, San Francisco, art studio on the head of the Sun Yat-sen sculpture. Bufano used various tools to carve the head as well as the hands – all made from one piece of red granite. The body is fashioned from stainless steel.



On the front base of the Sun Yat-sen sculpture is a round stainless steel plaque. The exterior ring reads, "Dr. Sun Yat-sen 1866-1925, Father of the Chinese Republic and First President, Founder of the Kuo Min



Tang, Champion of Democracy, Lover of Mankind, Proponent of Friendship and Peace Among the Nations, Based on Equality, Justice and Goodwill." The center of the plaque has the same inscription written in Chinese.

Environment:	park side
Use:	main body
Artist:	Benny Bufano
Photographs:	through Wikimedia: Another Believer Larry Jacobsen Luenlin
More information:	waymarking.com



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