

ART AND THE GARDEN

My long tenure as the Botanical Curator of the Donald M. Kendall Sculpture Gardens at PepsiCo's World Headquarters offered me incredibly unique experiences. The 168-acre campus not only incorporated forty-five world renowned sculptures but those grounds were also perceived as an art form.

This concept and the subject of this article focus upon the endless possibilities that are before us at The Arboretum.

What we have is such an exciting and boundless place to work, visit and be part of that our future is only limited by our own creativity.

Just after the New Year, I met Bret Price and his wife Rae Lynn. I knew of Mr. Price's work while working at PepsiCo. There, they had his sculpture piece, Big Scoop, beautifully displayed among young magnolia trees. His medium has included ceramic and steel. Bret and Rae Lynn live in Orange, California, and his aunt is the very talented Gina Shaw, one of our very own Los Voluntarios. Discussions began, visits to The Arboretum ensued and a relationship was struck. Both Bret and Rae Lynn are fabulous people who want to assist The Arboretum however they can. They share with me the vision that The Arboretum is a place that is many things.

The Arboretum is first and foremost an educational facility. Our mission is education. This statement is inclusive of many things, not the least of which is a garden in which there is art — that is,

the garden as art, the display of sculptures as another art form. The development of these two concepts is very exciting...to educate, both passively and overtly, our visitors (that includes you and me) about the world of garden as art and the sculptures within, can be a very rewarding proposition. Think of the possibilities: not only will we build a meaningful sculpture collection, expand our educational programs to include art and associated subjects, but also have more artful gardens by artists who are more artful, not necessarily just a display of plant materials.

On another note, the Baldwin Bonanza was a fantastic success. This show of support from our community, staff and volunteers is truly a phenomenon. Thanks to the great efforts of all, especially Chairperson Marcia Bent, Sylvia Guerrero, Gwen Hartley, and Suzanne Haller and Los Vols.

Our next big event is David Rogers' BIG BUGS. This sculpture display of really large insects is coupled with many events, family happenings, a Big Bug-A-Boo Fest, Maize Maze and a multitude of other educational programs. It should really catch the eye of many folks in our region. This will be a great opportunity for us to show the public what we are, where we are and who we are. So, please spread the word and tell all you know about this event and suggest that they'll want to visit several times, and it might be prudent to join our membership. You know that as members you can visit The Arboretum as often as you like.



So, I think the future is brighter than ever. Thanks to collaborations with more and more people. Thanks to Bret and Rae Lynn Price, the designers of our new *Sunset* Magazine Demonstration Gardens, David Rogers and the future folk who will share our vision and help propel The Arboretum into this new century.

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The Arboretum Newsletter is published by the California Arboretum Foundation

The Arboretum of Los Angeles County is jointly operated by the California Arboretum Foundation and The County of Los Angeles.

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Atkins, Peter C. 2000. "Art and the garden." *News from the Arboretum of Los Angeles County* 2000:Aug.-Sep., 2.

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