

# ART AT THE ARBORETUM



*Floating by Gerry Walburg*

An important focus of The Arboretum is to explore ways in which to enhance our visiting guests' experiences and perceptions. One approach is to provide opportunities for our guests to gain more of an appreciation of both art in the garden as well as the notion of the garden as art.

Recently, the concept of art in the garden has been addressed in a variety of ways at The Arboretum. The year 2000 saw the invasion of David Rogers' Big Bugs, which included eleven oversized, organic sculptures of insects. They generated considerable excitement for eleven weeks, increasing our attendance by 44% and our membership by 25%. This presentation set the stage for additional sculpture to arrive at The Arboretum on a more permanent basis. We are fortunate to have received on long-term loan two pieces by Bret Price, entitled Blue Runner and Untitled Wicket, as well as Floating by Gerry Walburg. Other possible additions to our new collection are currently being researched. These pieces of art continue to elicit wide-ranging reactions, leading to exciting and thought provoking discussions.

The concept of the garden as art has also been approached in many ways. Historically, our art class offerings have always been popular. In early July, The Arboretum hosted Dick Rauh, a prominent plant morphologist from The New York Botanical Garden, to teach a five-day workshop focusing on the structure and shape of plants (plant morphology). Many artists and botanical illustrators attended the class and it was filled to capacity. Those who attended were most enthusiastic about the course and are excited about the possibility of similar workshops being offered by The Arboretum in the future. We plan to exhibit some of the resulting creations by these fine artists in order for the public to enjoy.

In addition, The Arboretum will be presenting Cross-Pollination, by Fringe Exhibitions, during the month of November. This unusual and exciting exhibit will feature impressions of flowers by 100 artists from both coasts of the United States.

The perception of the garden as art is certainly evident in Sunset Magazine's Demonstration Gardens.

## Annual Meeting — September 30 We hope to see you!

*The Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation's annual meeting will take place at The Arboretum on Sunday, September 30 at 3:00 pm. All members of The Arboretum, their families and friends are cordially invited to come and enjoy the afternoon as we present the success of the last year and the highlights of the coming year and beyond.*

*Nancy Goslee Power will be the featured speaker. Her landscape design firm has been chosen to prepare a conceptual long-range plan to speed The Arboretum on its way to becoming a world class arboretum and botanic garden for Southern California. She and her team will discuss the conceptual long range plan for The Arboretum.*

*A comprehensive report covering the July 1, 2000-June 30, 2001 fiscal year will also be presented.*

*Please plan on attending this important meeting. We believe that you will find it interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile. We look forward to seeing you then.*

*The Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation  
Board of Trustees*

Furthermore, the most recent Baldwin Bonanza featured a variety of Garden Galleries that could be adapted for the home yard. These ingenious works of art were designed by many talented artists, designers and architects.

Another approach to the garden as art will be highlighted in the future long-range plan. As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, Nancy Goslee Power Associates will begin the important process of developing the visual plan for The Arboretum of the future. It will be exciting to be able to exhibit our vast collections in artfully designed and inspired landscapes and buildings.

The Arboretum is working in many ways to challenge our guests' comfort level, expose him or her to new perceptions and gain an appreciation of art in the garden as well as the garden as art.

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