

THE SCULPTURE CENTER

Winter 2000
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Issue # 23

THE FINE ARTS GARDEN PROJECT DEEMED ONE OF AMERICA'S TREASURES

by Juilee Decker

The Sculpture Center's 1999 Outdoor Sculpture Conservation Program has been designated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as an official project of the Save America's Treasures Program, led by honorary Chair, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Save America's Treasures is a national effort dedicated to the preservation of our nation's irreplaceable historical and cultural treasures. The "Official Project" status recognizes the value and integrity of The Sculpture Center Conservation Committee's plan to restore thirteen sculptures in Cleveland's Fine Arts Garden and adjacent areas. To date, seven of the thirteen sculptures have been restored; the remainder will be treated this spring.

In celebration of the Save America's Treasures program, the White House holiday decorations commemorated the rich history of our nation's people and places. Mantel and tabletop decorations featured historic sites, such as The Fine Arts Garden. Michael Spencer, artist and studio assistant for David E. Davis, was asked to create an interpretation of the Fine Arts Garden sculptures, one of America's treasures.

Mike created *Conserving Tomorrow*, which features four drawings of sculptures that are mounted in plexiglass and suspended from a square of carved walnut. The drawings are accented by four carved maple columns and a carved walnut base. The sculpture was sent to the White House in early November and installed as part of the Holiday Treasures exhibition which was on view during the holiday season. The piece will become part of the White House art collection.

We are very pleased to have been awarded Official Project status by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Michael Spencer's representation of the cultural treasures in the Fine Arts Garden embodies the accomplishments of The Sculpture Center's conservation program. *Conserving Tomorrow* is not only the name of Mike's sculpture; it is the mission of our program.



Conserving Tomorrow, by Michael Spencer

THOUSANDS SEE CONSERVING TOMORROW AT THE WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY EXHIBITION

by Crystal Polis

Knowing I would be home in northern Virginia for the holidays, I decided to plan a trip to the White House to see Michael Spencer's sculpture, ***Conserving Tomorrow***, in the Save America's Treasures exhibition. A call into the office of the White House's Social Secretary before I left informed me that they were well aware of Mike's piece. Debby McGinn told me, "Oh, The Sculpture Center in Cleveland? That one was fantastic. We gave it a special place in the Vermeil Room."

So, one day shortly after Christmas, I rounded up Mom, Dad, my sister and my husband, and we headed down to the nation's capital for a day of sightseeing to culminate in a visit to the White House. We counted on a long line (tours of the White House are free and reservations are not accepted), so we got on queue at 4:00 for the 5:00 p.m. opening. About two and one half hours and several cups of hot chocolate later, we were herded through the front doors.

We passed through the East Wing, where an old-fashioned Christmas tree had been created to display some of the replicas of Save America's Treasures projects, and then through the East Foyer with its majestic poinsettia tree and display of official White House Christmas cards dating back to the Eisenhower Administration.

At the end of the Ground Floor Corridor, we found the Vermeil Room, and it was true: ***Conserving Tomorrow*** had been given a special place indeed. It stood on a round, wooden three-legged table in the middle of the room. The sculpture has four sides with openings for four drawings representing sculptures from the Fine Arts Garden conservation project. The drawing of Sun by Chester Beach faced visitors. A famous portrait of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis by Aaron Shikler hung on the wall behind the sculpture. The Vermeil Room was once the Billiard Room but now contains a collection of European and American gilded silver objects, c. 1650-1950. With its yellow walls and a beautiful yellow and pale blue tapestry, it is a very elegant and stately room. Unfortunately, photography is not permitted inside the White House, so I was not able to take any pictures.

We enjoyed the rest of the tour even with the immense crowds. A park ranger who was clicking off the number of visitors informed me that I was number 2,551, and I guesstimate that I was in the top quarter of the line. Easily 10,000 people that night saw *Conserving Tomorrow* and the rest of the Save America's Treasures exhibition, and the show ran for two weeks before my visit. It was a wonderful honor for Mike and The Sculpture Center to be included in the beauty and splendor of the event.

Envisioning NIGHT VISIONS

by Carolyn Jirousek

It all started as a spur-of-the-moment idea a year ago this past December. After the final Window to Sculpture exhibition of 1998 closed on December 18, the gallery would be unoccupied for three weeks, reopening after the New Year. During the final days of pre-holiday pandemonium, who had the time and energy to assemble a show or visit the gallery? As Bill Jirousek contemplated the peace and quiet, he didn't feel quite comfortable. Somebody could have fun with this space for a few hours or days, he thought, even if just to set up some sculptures to photograph. He called Kim Bissett, Instructor in Sculpture at the Cleveland Institute of Art Continuing Education Department, to offer her the space during the gallery's down time. She accepted, and gathered together her Wednesday Night Sculpture Class to celebrate their creations of the past semester. In a matter of days, an entire exhibition was mounted. An opening reception put on by the artists themselves brightened the window on Euclid Avenue a few nights before Christmas. Without time for publicity, it was nonetheless a hit for the class and their friends and families. The group, comprised of a few experienced sculptors and individuals from a variety of professional backgrounds, had shared many evenings in class together over more than ten years thanks to Kim's dedication. The results of their efforts, accomplished in time set aside from their daily responsibilities, were testimonies to their devotion to sculpture and their closeness as colleagues.

So, Bill and his staff did the same thing this past December, but expanded it to two continuing education classes – Kim's class and Michael Spencer's Thursday night Non-representational Carving Class held at Davis Studio. With a larger space in the new Sculpture Center building, and now a name — "Night Visions" — the exhibition of the CIA Continuing Education Sculpture classes featured an engaging array of works, from abstract to figurative, in a variety of media and styles. There were portraits with real personalities, such as Don Kalish's sensitively modeled, terracotta bust of "Tevya" and Ralph Bertonaschi's wall-mounted face of "Lou," which was only missing the sound coming from a gaping mouth. Textures ranged from gleaming patinas on bronze, seen in Ken Roby's bust of a nude female, to meticulous patterns carved into rich wood grain, as in Ken Palko's totemic poplar piece. Movement could be sensed in the swirling dance of Jan Manning's bronze sculpture, as well as in the curves of Ben DiGiovanni's small, open-form metal piece, and the flickering, flame-shaped polished bronze by Bertonaschi.

As happened last year, artists, friends, and families gathered and celebrated an opening on December 20 and a closing on January 8, taking time during a busy season to enjoy the sculpture and each other. Surpassing its previous "spur-of-the-moment" status, "Night Visions" has become an annual event. This year everyone will be invited to experience this special group of emerging and established sculptors who do amazing things in their "spare time."



Photo by Bill Jirousek

Ruth & Don Kalish and Ken Palko
at the Night Visions opening reception.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - GET EXPERIENCE - MEET NEW PEOPLE

Sculpture Students: As you enter the spring and summer semesters, consider an internship arranged by The Sculpture Center. The opportunity to work with a professional sculptor will provide valuable studio experience. Some internships may include a stipend and/or college credit. For more information, contact Mandy Sherman, Program Coordinator.

CONGRATULATIONS KRISTIN!



Kristin Bly, has left The Sculpture Center after working as exhibitions coordinator and newsletter editor for nearly two years. Kristin is now assistant director of Cultural Arts Education at the Cleveland Cultural Coalition. Thank you Kristin for all you have done for The Sculpture Center. We wish you the best of luck with your new position. We miss you!

THE SCULPTURE CENTER

Chairman
David E. Davis

Administrator
Bill Jirousek

Staff
Juilee Decker : Conservation Program Coordinator
Carol Gill : OOSI Coordinator
Matthias Minnig : Gallery Assistant
Mandy Sherman : Exhibition & Program Coordinator

Volunteers
Steve Goldrich, cataloguing
Joe Brown, photography
Rob Bliss, web maintenance

Newsletter editing and layout
Mandy Sherman

Mission
The Sculpture Center is a nonprofit organization fostering the careers of emerging sculptors and promoting the preservation of outdoor sculpture.

In addition to many individual contributors to our annual fund, The Sculpture Center's programs are funded by Bernice and David E. Davis and The Ohio Arts Council.



WINDOW TO SCULPTURE

NATHANIEL PARSONS PRESENTS:

LUCKY LEAPS SCENIC SEEKERS

letting wander jumping culture

February 18 - March 17

opening reception: Friday, February 18-5:00-8:00 pm
artist introduction & discussion: 7:00 pm

upcoming exhibition:

KATE BUDD: wax works

March 24-April 21

Receptions are held from
5:00-8:00 pm on the open-
ing date of every exhibition.
These and other events are

**FREE and open
to the public.**

Conservation Update

The conservation of sculptures in the Fine Arts Garden and adjacent areas has taken its winter break. To date, *Harvey Rice*, *Spring Racing the Wind*, *Sun, Earth, Mermaids*, *Night Passing Earth to Day*, and *General Milan Stefanik* have been restored. In the spring, work will resume and the remaining seven sculptures will be treated, including *Fountain of the Waters*, *Twelve Signs of the Zodiac*, *Marcus Hanna*, *Louis Kossuth*, *Tadeusz Kosciuszko*, and *Lampposts*. Stop by the Fine Arts Garden in April to watch the magic as it happens.

During the month of February 2000, The Sculpture Center will be presented on the Heritage Preservation website as the **Project of the Month**. The site will feature the *Harvey Rice Monument*, which was created by James G.C. Hamilton in 1899 and restored a century later. Photos of the conservation and rededication will be available online at www.heritagepreservation.org.

The Sculpture Center Conservation Committee has added two new members, Julia Kipnis and Peggy Spaeth. Each has a wealth of knowledge and experience to add to our committee and our mission. Julia is a senior Art History major at Case Western Reserve University and Peggy is active in the arts in the Coventry area. We would like to welcome our newest members to our committee.

Fine Arts Garden Conservation & Education Program List of Funders 1999-2000

The Ingalls Foundation; Holden Parks Trust; John P. Murphy Foundation; Target Stores; and the National Endowment for the Arts—a federal agency, as part of Save Outdoor Sculpture!, a joint project of Heritage Preservation and the National Museum of American Art; the Smithsonian Institution; The Cleveland Foundation; Peter B. Lewis; Agnes Gund & Daniel Shapiro Early Settlers Assoc. of Western Reserve; First Energy; Ohio Arts Council; The S. Livingston Mather Charitable Trust; The Abington Foundation; Bernice & David E. Davis

HOLIDAY CIRCLEFEST

by Mandy Sherman

Sculpture Center volunteers were happy to participate in University Circle's Holiday CircleFest on December 5, 1999. This annual event was hosted by several institutions in University Circle including Epworth-Euclid United Methodist Church which generously provided space for The Sculpture Center's children's activity. Kids of all ages created their own original ornaments, ranging from colorful and cuddly snowmen to eye-catching, glittery stars. A special thanks to Reverend Barb Davis, Epworth-Euclid Church and our volunteers: Angela Sherman, Elaine Kalous, Juilee Decker, and Bill Jirousek. Their hard work made CircleFest a day full of fun and merriment. If you would like to volunteer for a future event, please contact Mandy Sherman at 229-6527.

SCULPTORS' FORUM CONNECTING TO STUDENTS: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO TEACHING ART

GUEST SPEAKERS:
NATHANIEL PARSONS art educator/exhibiting artist,
LYNDA A. BENDER director, Cultural Arts Education at
Cleveland Cultural Coalition,
COREY N. THRUSH, art educator at Cleveland School
of the Arts/artist.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2000 @ 7:00 PM
PLEASE RSVP, SEATING IS LIMITED

OUR ANNUAL FUND

The Sculpture Center is currently wrapping up our annual fund campaign. Even the smallest gifts can make a vast impact on the quality and potential of our programming.

We are in need of some items for the office. If you have or know of someone who might have an interest in donating office materials, please contact us at your earliest convenience. We are an established 501c3 nonprofit organization, and will provide receipts for tax purposes. The following are the items that we are interested in obtaining:

microphone/
pa combination
tool box & tools
electric typewriter
flat bed scanner

stereo system
8' step ladder
small light table
file cabinets

We are pleased to be serving our cultural community, and look forward to continuing our mission to foster the careers of emerging sculptors and to promote the preservation of outdoor sculpture. Please call The Sculpture Center for more information.

The Sculpture Center would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions: Sharon Parker for office furniture; Mrs. Frances Tonkin for photos and information on sculptor Frank Jirouch; and Joseph Shafran for hosting The Sculpture Center's board retreat at the Gildden House.

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PERMIT 1415

Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 10-4, Sat 12-4

APPLAUSE!

The Sculpture Center is happy to announce its two award winners at the Scholastic Art Exhibition at the Cleveland Institute of Art:

Kat Hoy of North Olmsted High School, Gold Key for sculpture

Kate Podnar of Hawken School, Silver Key for sculpture.

Congratulations on your fine work!

SLIDES WANTED

Attention Sculptors!

The slide registry is currently being updated to serve you better. We are doing more to bring in gallery owners, interior designers, and other interested contacts to view the registry and form new relationships with the artist of their choice. When the updating is complete, the registry will be more accessible and informative for all.

Additionally, we will be selecting artists from the slide registry to speak at Sculptors' Forums. This is an excellent opportunity for artists to share their work with the public and other artists. Sculptors' Forums are lead by individuals who present topics and issues that are of interest to artists today.

There is no charge to have your file in the registry. **If you are interested please contact Program Coordinator, Mandy Sherman 216.229.6527**

Cleveland Sculpture Course

Come to The Sculpture Center to learn more about Cleveland's historic sculpture and the need to preserve such artwork for the future. Site visits will consist of guided tours of outdoor sculptures in the Cleveland area to learn about conservation that has been completed and or yet needs to be done. Classes will take place Thursdays, July 6,13,20, and 27, 2000.

Contact:

John Carroll University, office of continuing education 216-397-4190 to register for this exciting course.