

# Detroit Artists Market

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## Refuse

Detroit Artists Market

## The Garden

Stroh's Riverplace

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Michigan Council  
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### Detroit Artists Market

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## The Garden

Nadine Bayla-Norman  
D'Ann de Simone  
Gary Griffin  
Jaymes Leahy  
Ellen Moucoulis  
Juleo Pallone  
Michael Sarnacki  
Robert Tucker

*I farm the soil that yields my food. I share creation. Kings can do no more.*  
Anonymous Chinese Gardener, 2500 B.C.

*The more I am acquainted with agricultural affairs, the better I am pleased with them; insomuch that I can no where find so great satisfaction as in those innocent and useful pursuits. How much more delightful to an undebauched mind, is the task of making improvements on the earth, than all the vainglory which can be acquired from ravaging it, by the most uninterrupted career of conquests.*

George Washington (1732-1799)

*Mortal dooms and dynasties are brief things, but beauty is indestructible and eternal, if its tabernacle be only in a petal that is shed tomorrow.*

Reginald Farrer, Botanist (1880-1920)

Throughout history the garden has been an infinite source for interpretation. A kind of "theater of nature," it provides a place where we can create our personal Eden. As "set designers" we can bring the vastness of the natural universe within the confines of our own backyards. We can, as it were, be in charge of the mystery while we work the soil, tend and prune, harvest and discard. In the repetition of these cycles we also renew within ourselves the wonders of life - its tenderness and its strength.

The artists in this exhibition bring issues before us in a context informed and inspired from the garden. They translate nature into permanency and also remind us of its most ephemeral qualities.

Gary Griffin suspends the delicacy of time, reminding us to cherish all the more that moment within the cycle. His sculptures integrate the biological structure of plant and the technological structures of mankind with wit and reverence for both.

Capturing the fragrances of memory, Jaymes B. Leahy intones in the layers of age a voice of solitude. These installations unfold, like the petals of a flower or the pages of an old album - glimpsing at another's secret life - the accumulation of desires.

The fragility and flash of plant and flower - the gesture of the artist's hand and dance of leaf bud merge in the works of D'Ann de Simone. As if moved by wind and rain across the page these pictures ex-

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*The Garden, continued from page 1*

press joy full-out. In the painting *Terricolous*, however, D'Ann also shows us the full weight of destruction upon a delicate landscape.

Juleo Pallone captures within his photographs the complexity of a flower and in doing so perceives the universe. Many have searched for the spiritual within the folds of a flower. Extrapolating such intricacies from each image draws us closer into the folds and simultaneously into ourselves.

The rabbit functions as receptor and communicator in the paintings and cut-outs of Ellen Moucoulis. Startling and startled, the rabbit stares out with eyes that are informed from a source other than our own. A druidical past where the mysteries of its garden, once understood by mankind, are now the rabbit's alone.

Jonathan Swift said "Vision is the art of seeing things invisible." Nadine Norman's installations pull our senses into the experience of time passing, of each moment - now lost. In impressing our memories sensorially they become keener, sharper, and more open to observe what was heretofore invisible.

Robert Tucker marks off a section of earth as a hallowed space, much in the Shinto tradition, investing it with a personal power. These towers act as antennae from earth to sky/sky to earth, drawing energy from both sources into the ritualized space of the artist.

In the gentle photographs of his daughter, Franny, Michael Sarnacki brings us face to face with the cycle of growth and change. Placed within the garden the connection is made even stronger between the nurturing of our environment and those we love. These photographs are also reminders that we pass on the conditions of the earth to the generations of children to come.

There is perhaps no other place like a garden where the mind can come to rest and meditate, to revive and refresh. In a world rife with stress may we each carry a small corner of a garden within us.

Sandra Schemske, Curator

Sandra is a member of the Detroit Artists Market Exhibition Committee.

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