

Betty Henderson - *The Nest*

A bird's nest in the wild is a wonder to behold. Nests are intricately constructed from a variety of painstakingly woven materials characteristic of the surrounding area. They are marvels of natural building techniques and studies in locally-sourced construction.

"The Nest" reveals its structure through its openness. It is meant to be playful and intriguing, inviting the viewer to approach in order to study its composition. The vintage textiles which are encased in copper rings are cut from antique feed sacks. Their colors and shapes evoke the berries and peas that a bird might encounter in a country garden. The colors are also reminiscent of the occasional scrap of yarn that birds find and use in building a nest.

Copper sticks and twigs have been forged and welded into the nest and copper blades of grass have been woven and wrapped. Similarly, feathers have been fold-formed and wired throughout the structure, providing an element of movement and sound in the blowing wind. A resourceful Mother Nature seems apparent as growth creeps up the post in vines of various forms. A nest represents a place of beginning. It is also a place of refuge and warmth. For a much-cherished fledgling, a nest also represents hope for the future.



SPONSORS:

Materials used to construct "The Nest" were generously donated in part by BOB'S METALS of Portland, Oregon.

Pete Krsnak - *Fissure*



This work represents a group of flames coming from the molten earth. Three tongues of flame, made from 3/8 inch rod stock, rise out of the lava bed shaped like a crack in the earth. Fissure should remind visitors in this quiet space of the hidden, dynamic powers of the earth which sustains us.

Ceramic I & II Classes, Spring 2012 - *Finials*

Micki Skudlarczyk – Instructor

Fence post finials project. 40 students from two classes made ceramic birds and bugs inspired by those critters who hang out in the gardens of the Northwest. Each piece began with a uniform template for the base. From there, students were able to interpret their bird or bug of the Northwest in their own unique and playful manner.



Nicki Falkenhagn - *Water and Earth*

Designing a sculpture for a specific site is always a welcome challenge for me. I am a public artist working mostly with Cor-ten steel and cut stacked glass. My interest in glass, a material that spoke to me instantly, comes from a public art class at Pacific NW College of Art, where I learned to use glass in a large public art project.

Glass cut into narrow strips and set on its cut edge show vibrant aquamarine hues resembling water. Its gentle colors will change with the different angles of light reflecting on it even on a dark winters day.

This sculpture "Water and Earth" stands for the two main "ingredients" for a successful garden. The height of the sculpture is calculated to create a seating opportunity for a tired gardener.



Rock Creek learning garden

A year of growth.

We planted more than produce this year.

art in the garden

**Ralph Gilliam -
Garden Flowers; A Nod to Seuss**

Garden Flowers is a two piece metal sculpture constructed of repurposed materials as well as new materials. The flower petals are stainless steel funnel shaped sheet metal forms salvaged from machinery used to process and move grain in a mill. The stems are made from automotive exhaust tubing. The flower stamens are made from hardware store wiggly wire used in cyclone fencing.



Garden Flowers forms are easily recognizable as flowers while also being stylized and playful. They would be at home in a Doctor Seuss story book. I hope they will help promote a fun and inviting atmosphere in the garden. The flowers are intended to be viewed and touched but will not support climbing.

**Art 107, Spring 2012 - The Nest
Ben Buswell - Instructor**

“The Nest” is meant to create a place of rest in the Learning Garden. Viewers approaching from the garden side enter a semi-private space and are offered a view of the garden and the hill to the west. Continuing through the central arch, viewers enter a more private space that opens on the adjoining apple trees and field where animals pasture. “The Nest” is made from reclaimed branches that provide habitat for small birds and, like the Learning Garden, create a useful man-made structure from natural materials.



Alisa Roe - Precarious

“Precarious” is a piece that was inspired first, by the inherent beauty of basalt columns, and secondly by the precarious position in which we can find ourselves as we struggle to chart a path in a complicated world. Often a single solution cannot be guaranteed or an outcome predicted and we are left to have faith in the life force and to hope and wonder. Perhaps it is this uncertainty that inspires us to try for something better.



“Precarious” came about by playing with a composition of common geometric forms. The idea developed into three basalt columns in which the face of one column is the reflected and shifted face of its neighbor and the third column appears to be a smaller fragment that has fallen. On this smallest of columnar form, a golden egg is precariously balanced. The taller two columns stand at a slight angle, one from the other, such that two faces appear to have split apart to reveal a composition of half cylinders, rectangular tubing, pyramids and rods that protrude from one of the two faces and are mirrored inset in the opposite face. It appears that the whole could be recreated by nesting the forms back together. A variety of abstract “geologic crystalline” forms are randomly added to and removed from the other column faces in order to create an interesting assemblage of texture and form.

Bladimir Torres - Artistic Journey

This sculpture represents an artistic journey. This is my first sculpture, hopefully the first of many more. This piece is made of steel and has been polished to brilliant sheen. The surface is prepared to catch and reflect light, to enhance the learning garden. I hope that when you gaze upon this sculpture, it encourages viewers to think of their own journey.



Ralph Gilliam – Shovel Gallery

Shovel Gallery is a grouping of five sculptures all made from shovel parts. I have selected remnants of shovels and either displayed them as they are or in some cases altered or grouped pieces as I see fit. I have gathered these pieces together in a garden gallery to give them attention as sculptural forms.

I am intrigued with the form of the common shovel in all of its variations developed for different purposes. Shovels, like many utilitarian things, can be taken for granted visually and are not usually thought of as things of beauty. I want people to see these shovels out of the ordinary context of using them to dig holes or shovel bark dust. When the shovel is presented in an unusual way, my hope is that the viewer will be caught off guard and see the forms presented with new eyes. I love that these worn implements can now return to a garden in a new role where people will appreciate them solely as the beautiful things they have always been.



**Art 294-Sculpture Metals, Spring 2012
Untitled**

Ben Buswell - Instructor

This piece is based on the idea of a cairn. Usually made of stacked rocks, cairns have marked mountain roads for centuries in many parts of the world. This steel cairn is meant to mark one of the main paths through the garden and the boundary between three distinct uses; The Terra Nova space, the faculty beds and the cafeteria beds.



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