



heart of

toronto's waterfront

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artists' gardens

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Toronto's central waterfront for the people of Canada.

Registration # 10746 6575 RR 0003

GARDEN 17 Soulpepper Theatre, You Can Lead a Horticulture (2001)

Soulpepper Theatre Company propagates the masterpieces of the classical repertory. Founded in 1997 by twelve hardy, perennial actors (led by master-gardener Albert Schultz), the company has quickly grown into a flourishing artistic garden. Soulpepper cultivates vital home-grown interpretations of the world's great theatrical masterpieces, plants the seeds of the future through artist training and spreads its branches to young people through mentorship programmes. Garden designer, Jan Milito is a Toronto-based visual artist and gardener. *Sculptural trellis built by Rabbit's Choice.*



GARDEN 18

Jeannie Thib and Bruce Holland, Raked: a Garden for Harbourfront (2001)

Raked presents a stage with planted deck, curtain and legs. The decorative open fretwork of the curtain is derived from a textile design representing stylized flower and vegetation. This partition divides the stage, suggesting a curtain/trellis from the front of the house and a theatre flat/fence when viewed from backstage. Bruce Holland is a bricoleur who works in fabrication, restoration, faux finishing and as a scenic artist for theatre and film. Jeannie Thib is a visual artist who also works as a scenic artist for theatre. She has exhibited across Canada and internationally.



GARDEN 21 Anne O'Callaghan, Ode (2003)

With this garden I wanted to play to the specifics of the site, and at the same time create a place that enhanced the changing seasons both visually and fragrantly. The black of Enwave Theatre, the red bricks of the Powerplant and the shape of Grecian Urns become backdrops and props for the main players – the plants. The fragrance of both plants and shrubs, may trigger happy memories for those that wander by. As the plants move through their life cycle, the shape of the trees and the colour and scent of the flora will punctuate the seasons. A small garden – a place to pause, breathe in the fragrance and smile. Anne O'Callaghan is a Toronto based visual artist, who has created temporary and permanent site-specific works in Ontario and Asia. *The artist wishes to thank Tredegar Kennedy for fabricating the urns, and Melanie Page of TERRA FIRMA for advice on plants.*



GARDEN 22 Libby Hague, Whirligig Garden (2002)

The garden integrates whirligig figures to evoke childhood fears and the desire for security. Demonic clowns, their arms reaching out, chase the children from a frightening, twisted part of the garden. They must cross a river of iris and amsonia to reach their mother who waits in the tender garden on the other side. The visual opposition of frightening vs. tender plants will be echoed with sounds and smells and emphasized with light. The terrifying garden will have dry rustling sounds, chaotic shapes and violent colours. In the tender garden, the mother holds a small bell on her outstretched arms to summon her children. This apparently happy ending is precarious – the ominous and twisted garden rises insistently, fearfully framing our view of happiness. Libby Hague is a visual artist working in a wide variety of media, usually incorporating figures and narrative. *The Artist would like to acknowledge the support of Open Studio, Toronto and Serge Fortin.*



GARDEN 10 Alia Toor & Farheen Haq, *The Living Stitch* (2005)

"Shisha" means 'little glass' in Hindi. It is unique to the Indian subcontinent as a textile art form. Like a richly decorated piece of fabric, our garden emulates its intense colours, strong patterns and intricacies through the placement and palette of flowers. We see the *Living Stitch* as a union of the spirit of the Islamic garden and the beauty of the mirror work. In contrast to the modern Western garden, which is customarily a place for extrovertism, the Islamic garden is introverted: a mental and spiritual experience. Here, shisha embroidered forms are integrated with the principles of the Islamic garden and give the viewer a clear yet limitless space for imagination. Farheen Haq is a video and photo-based artist who has exhibited her work across North America. Alia Toor is a media educator and an artist who is currently exploring issues of religion, sexuality and language within an Islamic context.



GARDEN 11 Lily Yung, 園 Eden Vulgaris (2000)

Like plants in a garden, a work of art begins as an idea. Given time, a little nourishment and care, it will develop and bloom. The Chinese character for garden is 園, pronounced "yu'en" in cantonese. Into this garden, the eyes wander from blossom to blossom, through leaves and branches, the nose takes in the fragrance and one is filled with wonderment at all this beauty. Over there some beads form a circle 圓 is also pronounced "yu'en". It symbolizes wholeness and harmony, essential for a happy co-existence of all things in the universe. Toronto-based artist Lily Yung makes contemporary jewellery using mostly non-precious materials and loves to watch plants grow. *The artist wishes to thank John McKinnon for fabricating the trellis.*



GARDEN 13

Ted Rettig, *Play and delight, the possibilities are boundless.* (2003)

Many artists use play as part of creative exploration. Play with the elements of visual language, forms, shapes, sizes, textures colours; also play with ideas, images, thoughts, feelings, intuitions, to bring about allusions and the possibility of emotional resonance in the work. My long experience with sculptural language was central in planning this garden of diverse elements. Ted Rettig has been exhibiting since 1974. He lives in Toronto and teaches in the Department of Art at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario.



GARDEN 14 Shawn Kerwin, *Play* (2001)

The theatre is ultimately ethereal. It can be a strong force that evaporates when the performance has ended. For myself as a designer, it begins with a script. Trying to capture the spirit of a script is like trying to grab the wind. The search is both invigorating and terrifying, not always in that order. Can we be carried away on a breath of air? Shawn Kerwin lives in Toronto and has designed sets and costumes for the theatre across Canada, in the United States and in England.



GARDEN 15

Sean Breagh, An Evening in the Russian Hanging Garden (2001)

This is a garden designed to evoke the wistful splendour of a Chekovian evening. The whimsy of the hanging structure is balanced by the expectation of the empty child's chair positioned to watch over the water. The birch, the thyme, the wild flowers recall textures from the Russian countryside. This design is inspired by and dedicated to the memory of our friend Natalia Butko: born of Russian parents, original member of the National Ballet of Canada, Wardrobe Mistress of the Canadian Opera Company and devout gardener. Toronto-based set and costume designer Sean Breagh has worked with The Shaw Festival, Soulpepper Theatre Company, The Citadel Theatre and The Grand Theatre among many others. He has also worked on numerous film and television projects in Canada and abroad. *Special thanks to Philip Kerr.*



GARDEN 16 David Rayfield and Edward Kotanen, Curtain Call (2001)

There's plenty of new Canadian Opera being written and produced with no suitable place to present it in Toronto. While the art of opera continues to grow, the public remains deprived of a permanent up-to-the-minute opera theatre, therefore in the tradition of home grown theatre production we present our garden-variety opera house. David Rayfield is a multi-disciplinary artist who works in theatre and film as a scenic artist and designer. Edward Kotanen also works in theatre as a set and costume designer. *The artists wish to thank Craig Smith for fabricating the cedar trellis.*



GARDEN 19 Shadowland Theatre/Brad Harley & Anne Barber, Green Man Mummies (2001)

The Green Man is the inspiration and the intelligence from within the dark forest. He represents the irrepressible life cycle (life, death and rebirth). He is the guardian and revealer of the mysteries of the earth - the male counterpart to the Great Mother venerated since the beginnings of time. The Green Man is depicted in sculpture in English medieval churches and in theatre as the Jack-in-the-Green in mummer's plays and May Day celebrations. Shadowland is a Dora-award-winning theatre company based on Toronto Island since 1983. We are "urban mummies" making theatre from the small mysteries of everyday life and the shadows of the night's dreams. *With thanks to Bie Engelen and to Clayton Harrison, Forestry Department (Toronto Island).*



GARDEN 20 Ben Smit, Urban Pastoral (2005)

A garden, by definition, is not natural. It is a formalistic construct with a modicum of external that will always be present. The images of the water fowl refer to the garden's location at Harbourfront. The use of topiary, a traditional, if somewhat extreme gardening technique, acknowledges the gardener as control freak. Ben Smit is a sculptor, carpenter and sometimes gardener. He has exhibited across Canada, including Toronto's Sculpture Garden and has work permanently installed at Harbourfront Centre as well as the Windsor Sculpture Park. The 15 foot by 15 foot front garden of his Toronto home contains 15 different rose bushes as well as a pollared ash tree. In the back yard grow 3 espaliered fruit trees guarded by a topiary dog. *Special Thanks to John McEwen and The Hillsdale Forge & Iron Works*

