

Art in the Arboretum Sculpture: May 18-October 10

The Arboretum proudly presents Art in the Arboretum, a rotating show, three exhibits per year, of local artists' work, themed by nature and placed strategically throughout the gardens. **Sculpture** will feature nine local artists, and all pieces will be available to purchase. During the run of each exhibit, the Arboretum hopes to host casual events, such as music and wine and talks or demonstrations by the individual artists.

The gala Opening Reception for **Sculpture**, which is open to the public, is June 1, from 5-7 pm in the Aroma Garden; refreshments will be served at Norrie's Gift Shop.



Art in the Arboretum is being curated by local artist and sculptor Susana Arias to promote art and artists in Santa Cruz. Born in Panama City, Panama, she has lived in Santa Cruz, California, since 1978. Throughout her distinguished career, her sculptures and paintings have been featured in numerous one-person and group exhibitions in California, New York, and Panama. Her many commissions and grants for public art installations have won awards and accolades, among them 2012 Project of the Year for the Beach Area Roundabout and in 2000 an Artistic Achievement and Advancement of Archaeological Awareness Honor by the California

Archaeology Society for "Finding Our Past," her 1996 ceramic "dig" at the Bay and Porter Street underpass. In 2013, Arias was named Artist of the Year by the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission. In recent years, Arias has volunteered her time and expertise to organize art events, such as Art Extravaganza at Sierra Azul Nursery-Gardens in Watsonville and Experience Clay at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art History, and she has curated several Sculpture IS shows also at Sierra Azul.

Arias (www.susanaarias.com) takes on these time-consuming projects because of her passion for art and her desire to promote and encourage her fellow artists: *"Santa Cruz is home to a remarkable group of sculptors who showcase the amazing variety of mediums and approaches, from ceramics to metal works to stone. I love to organize small events at which artists and art can be introduced to the public, and the Arboretum is the ideal venue to meld the two together—a perfect complement of art and nature."*



Below are brief profiles of or statements from the nine sculptors participating in the **Sculpture** Exhibit:



Jamie Abbott (www.jamieabbottdesign.com): Abbott graduated from the San Francisco Art Institute with an MFA in Sculpture then began teaching at Cabrillo and Canada Community Colleges and was also the Director of the Cabrillo College Gallery. He lives in Santa Cruz and exhibits his work in local galleries.



Jeffrey Arnett (www.jeffarnettsculpture.com): Maybe the arrowheads my father found in Alabama as a child and later gave to me were my first inkling that stone could be shaped to suit our needs. But it wasn't until I took a studio art class at UCSC that I realized how much my hands wanted to shape clay, wood and wax. I eventually majored in art; stone would come later though a UCSC Extension class. I was encouraged to try Open Studios, which finally gave me the push to show my work. The experience of meeting and talking to the local art public was invaluable and inspired me to refine my technique and take on larger work.



Jennifer Hennig (www.jenniferhennig.com): My sculptures express the particular value I have in mind that needs attention. The sculptures involving the human element are usually very tactile, involving the sense of touch, focusing on hands, fingers, feet and/or lips. The ways we interact with our world on a very basic level expresses my feelings of concern for the human experience. Sculptures of the cohabitants of our planet tend to lean towards those that need more exposure, perhaps in a new light, often with humor, which allows easier reception.



Coeleen Kiebert (www.coeleenkiebert.com): Kierbet, a sculptor working in both ceramic and bronze, exhibits her work nationwide in museums and galleries. Her search for the "spiritual" in art has taken her to extensive study and travel in Japan and China and influences her sculpture. She teaches ceramic sculpture in her private studio and through UCSC extension.



Marilyn Kuksht (kuksht.com): Kuksht has been a full time sculptor for many years creating works primarily in steel and cast bronze. Her works range from small pedestal pieces to large outdoor sculptures that appear in collections in Europe and Asia as well as throughout the United States.



Anna Martin (www.martinsculpture.net): After working many years as a silversmith, I feel liberated from the limitation of scale and utility. Now my sculptures are big and getting bigger. My work is a collage of my life, how it was, how it is or ought to be. I find abstraction the best vocabulary to express my ideas, as it gives multiple interpretations of the work. Each piece determines the appropriate medium but welding steel and other metals gives me the most versatility and delight. I hope that my sculptures will provoke, amuse or delight the viewer and give them a peek into the diary of my life.



Kirk McNeill (www.freedom-forge.com): McNeill is the artist-blacksmith of Freedom Forge, specializing in custom architectural metalwork. Initially he pursued a career as a stone and wood sculptor, but after taking a toolmaking class at Cabillo College, forged steel became his medium. At his shop on Santa Cruz's West Side, he works with hot forged iron, bronze and copper, creating unique metalwork in designs modern and historical.



Christie Thomas & Scott Lindberg (www.lmnoarts.com): Thomas and Lindberg's LMNO ARTS, "landscape art to fit your lifestyle," is not open to the public but rather their large gallery of architectural and sculptural home and garden ornaments is viewable by appointment only for potential clients. They are experts at determining people's styles in order to create a one-of-a-kind bench, arbor, railing, awning, birdbath, or any number of items from their repertoire that fits the client's lifestyle.



Jenni Ward (www.jenniward.com): My mission is to share the beauty I see in the natural world through my art. Inspired by biological forms with a particular focus on structures, I find my time spent connecting to my environment and exploring way above and way below sea level as an integral part of my work. I take inspiration from those places to create abstract interpretations of forms and structures through thoughtfully crafted ceramic sculptures. Using clay as my primary medium, I build in parts and assemble the pieces into ephemeral arrangements in nature.