

Get to Know the Artists in *Color*: Marilyn Kuksht

Several of the *Art in the Arboretum: Color* participants shared their personal histories and thoughts on art and being an artist by responding to the following questions.



What person, place, or event has been a primary influence on your work and why? Jacques Terzian, founder of the Hunters Point Shipyard artist colony in San Francisco, the largest west of the Mississippi and perhaps beyond, was definitely the most important artistic influence in my life. I had quit the corporate world and was doing “plant art” (desk top parks and living art displays in lobbies). Terzian saw my work and said, “Honey—your plant designs are good, but you’re a sculptor. I’ll teach you to weld.” He did and it changed my life. Terzian died recently, but the hundreds of artists he supported at “The Point” will ensure he influences the art world for generations.

What adjectives best describe you as an artist/person? Flexible, resourceful, solid.

What adjectives best describe your work? Abstract, energetic, organic.



If you had a personal philosophy/motto, what would it be? I am rich beyond belief: I have a place to live....I have plenty to eat....I am not in pain.....I am cared about.

What might surprise someone about you/your work? I have never taken an art class. I stumbled accidentally into art and was happily open to where I landed. I’ve had fairytale opportunities from showing at downtown SF Galleries, a year after I made my first weld, to showing in Sweden with Princess Bernadotte hosting my opening. I’m a living example of Margaret Sinegar’s “do what you want...the money will follow.” I leaped off of a corporate

cliff and landed with artist wings.

What are your thoughts on the Color Exhibit (an integration of the beauty of nature with the beauty of sculpture)? Man and nature exalt each other in an exhibit such as this. Both man and nature (which are really one) produce an amazing array of loose form, highly structured architecture, color, and character. In the UC garden exhibit, bits of color draw you in to observe more subtle plant colors and architectures. It's just a lovely hand holding flora and fauna.

View more of Kuksh's art at <http://www.kuksht.com>