

Return to Paradise

Celebrating Walter Byck and Marijke Byck-Hoenselaars' thirty year legacy of visionary leadership and community engagement through art and sculpture.

JANN NUNN



! (Exclamation Point)
104" x 38" x 15"
Stainless steel, Powdercoat
2018

One of the greatest treasures of teaching is learning new things from students. When I was fresh on campus at Sonoma State University in the late 1990s, one of the advanced sculpture students had recently discovered an exciting outdoor sculpture exhibition at a local winery. The next week, the class and I drove up to Paradise Ridge Winery, a gorgeous property tucked away in the verdant Santa Rosa hills. We spent well over two hours strolling through and discussing the pieces displayed in the magically meandering sculpture grove, later named Marijke's Grove in honor of Dr. Byck's wife. The nearby meadow, displaying impressive large-scale sculptures, beckoned us to investigate at close range.

The day was a success, and from then on, a visit to Paradise Ridge became a regular and ever-inspiring field trip for my sculpture classes. It was evident that the property's owner not only had a keen eye but a sincere appreciation for artists and a deep love of sculpture.

It would be several years before I met the warm-hearted and generous Walter Byck. I still remember that first meeting—his ever-present twinkling eyes and his deep interest in promoting sculpture and regional sculptors stood out immediately. He welcomed ideas and was quick with a "yes!" Eventually, my own work, as well as the work of some of my former students, was curated into shows at Paradise Ridge.

When the 2017 Tubbs Fire ripped through Napa and Sonoma Counties, Paradise Ridge Winery was all but completely destroyed. Yet, the sculpture, save for one, remained intact. Thankfully, Dr. Byck and his family were determined to rebuild the winery and revitalize the sculpture program. I am truly grateful to be a part of this exhibition honoring the legacy of Walter Byck. His influence in the regional sculpture community is profound. The exhibition not only showcases the enduring power of sculpture but also celebrates the vision and generosity of a man who made it all possible.

BIO

Jann Nunn has exhibited, lectured and held residencies internationally and throughout the United States since 1987. Her work has been shown in London, Seoul, Düsseldorf, Melbourne, Mexico City, New York, and extensively throughout the Bay Area. Residencies include Atelier Höherweg Düsseldorf, Villa Montalvo, Prema Arts Centre in Gloucestershire England, Chesil Gallery in Portland England, and as an Affiliate Artist at the Headlands Center for the Arts. Best known for her sculptures, Nunn has created large-scale temporary outdoor works in public places including Burning Man 2001; SKYART Festival in Anchorage, Alaska; a 107-foot long sculpture for the Sonoma Community Center in Sonoma, CA; the City of Napa, CA; and Kunsthaus Langenberg, e.V., Velbert-Langenberg, Germany. Nunn's work is in numerous public and private collections including the Museum of Sonoma County (Santa Rosa, CA), Luther Burbank Center for the Arts (Santa Rosa, CA), di Rosa Preserve (Napa, CA), Common Ground's New Milestone Project (London), Tout Quarry Sculpture Park (Portland, England), Stadt-Sparkasse Düsseldorf, Kunstmuseum Düsseldorf. Nunn is currently exhibiting at Pepperwood Preserve in Santa Rosa and at the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco. Represented by Love House New York, her work can also be seen locally at Seager Gray in Mill Valley and Sofie Contemporary in Calistoga. Closest to her heart is The Erna and Arthur Salm Holocaust and Genocide Memorial, a site-specific sculpture on the campus of Sonoma State University, where she taught Sculpture for 20 years. Dedicated in 2009, it serves as the only physical place where many families can honor their lost loved ones. Jann Nunn studied art at University of Alaska Anchorage, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine, San Francisco Art Institute and is Professor Emeritus of Sculpture at Sonoma State University.

ARTIST STATEMENT

The ubiquitous exclamation point, once regarded as superfluous, is now almost required punctuation when communicating electronically. With over 1000 slightly curved welded stainless steel rods and standing at eight and a half feet tall, "!" exclaims itself as a monolith to its own emphatic grandeur. I designed "!" in 2018 for an outdoor sculpture exhibition at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts after the facility had partially burned down in the 2017 Wine Country fires. My intention was to provide an expression of joy and fortitude despite the recent tragedy. The sculpture's brilliant orange surface contrasts against the blue sky. Standing closely, the viewer's physical posture is affected as they look up, eliciting a sense of hope.

Artworks are for sale. For inquiries, contact Jeff Nathanson jhnathanson@comcast.net or 609-510-4236. Price for ! (Exclamation Point): \$22,500
jann-nunn.com