

GALLERIES JUNE 95

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Sculpture in the Open

Ana Sarginson

"Sculpture is an art of the open air; daylight, sunlight is necessary to it for me, its best setting and complement is nature." So said Henry Moore, and, taking a leaf from his book, sculpture gardens have come up with a range of outdoor exhibitions that promises the best of Contemporary sculpture in all its multiplicity.

Sprawled on her side in the centre of the Tower Bridge Piazza, her head resting on her arm, is sculptor Vanessa Pooley's *River*, undulating in the form of a naked woman. Her languorous curves, cast in bronze, are fluid like the sinuous bends of the Thames which curl around the Piazza. Here, The Royal Society of British Sculptors is staging 'Sculpture Expo '95', a representation of the diversity of British sculpture with large outdoor pieces of work by ten artists, all fellows or associates of the RSBS, including Allen Jones, and Glyn Williams, Professor of Sculpture at the RCA.

Antonia Spowers' monumental sculptures in the Sub-Tropical Gardens and **Pump House Gallery**, Battersea Park, London (21st June to 14th August), are the antithesis of the alienated figures at Tower Piazza. This is a site-specific exhibition, the result of three years work, with Spowers looking to the overlay of history of the area now known as Battersea Park. Her tall forms, like sections of the earth thrown up into relief, are hewn from blackened timber and forged from steel. A silvery kinetic sculpture, fashioned from corten steel and solar powered, pumps water over itself in a celebration of cyclical continuity.

The Sculpture Garden at St James's, Piccadilly, London, run by the **Rebecca Hossack Gallery**, is a salient venue for Michael Clark's new show, 'The Geometry of Healing' (12th June to 3rd July). On church grounds, the sculpture garden looks like a monastic herb garden. It is an oasis in the midst of urbanity and

gives context to the concept of Clark's site-specific work which, as a natural progression from his acclaimed 'Wounds' series, is based on a six foot square acoustic with six letters formed by herbs and plants associated with healing in 900 individual thumb pots.

Across the road, the **Royal Academy of Arts** have initiated a new venture in association with the Summer Show (4th June to 13th August), by placing monumental sculptures by the artists Barry Flanagan, Allen Jones, Michael Kenny and William Tucker in the courtyard.

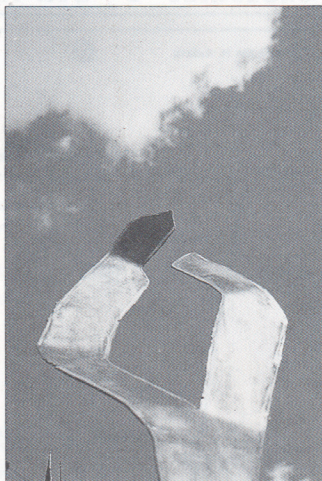
Outside London, from 25th June, the **Yorkshire Sculpture Park** near Wakefield is exhibiting works by Karl Prantl and Kim Lim. Prantl has for many years been one of Austria's leading sculptors, and this exhibition brings together simple, massive stone sculptures which will be sited in the landscape and a group of smaller bronzes. Lim, concerned with the tension between the order of static experience and organic, dynamic rhythms, works in stone and slate, and the exhibition draws on her work from the past five years.

In Dorset at Dean's Court, Wimborne, **Sculpture in the Garden 1995** (13th June to 3rd July) is in its third successive year, exhibiting a selection of young artists along with better known names such as Ann Christopher RA, and Peter Randall-Page. In the lush gardens of an early Georgian house, Maria Marshall's *On the Banks of the Nile* marches through tall grasses and wild flowers close to Claire Walmsley's woven

sculpture which hangs tenuously from one of the garden's great trees.

The didactic nature of the Summer exhibition at **The New Art Centre's Sculpture Garden**, Roche Court, Wiltshire, embraces a range of work from the 1950s to the present, and includes work borrowed from Pace Wildenstein in New York. In the green reaches of this beautiful garden you can see, along with many others, the tall angular figure of Kit Twyford's *The Juggler*, Barbara Hepworth's *Crucifixion*, and Jim Dine's *Little Lady*, an iconoclastic Venus with neither head nor arms.

Where else in England will you find a bed, pristine in pink, floating on a pond carpeted with water lilies or an ode to Shakespeare tapped out in morse with strings of glass beads, but in the garden at **Feeringbury Manor's** sixth annual sculpture exhibition in Essex (30th May to 7th July). Sonia Coode-Adams has brought together eight contemporary sculptors for this show, choosing the artists for their diversity, and includes Amanda Hopkirk's tableau of 12 miniature glass slides, a monthly microcosm of the garden throughout the year; Hugh Hamshaw-Thomas's 250 vases of plastic flowers on the lawn, and the perfect execution of Julian Sainsbury's male nude in bronze ●



Antonia Spowers
'Dancing 1995' Battersea Park