

Curatorial Essay

How Does Your Garden Grow?

By Liz Wylie

And the secret garden bloomed and bloomed and every morning revealed new miracles.

— Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*

Okanagan-based artists Wanda Lock and Rena Warren have collaborated on making a truly magical garden in the Rotary Courtyard space of the Kelowna Art Gallery this year that is sure to delight visitors over the entire four seasons it will be in place. Drawing on the awareness they have as artists of various subjects such as mythology, archetypes, and the power of images, they began with the idea of an enclosure with a fanciful cage that is vacant. Has a creature escaped, perhaps still lurking about? Visitors are immediately put on their guard, and are left in a state of not-knowing. The lush planted greenery in the enclosure, and in various urns around and about the space, including four beautiful potted Japanese Maples are pleasant and soothing, but underlying the beauty a feeling of darkness and danger persists.

We might eventually notice the Narnia lamp in the urn that bears a relief lion's head. Another three-dimensional lion in the form of a mass-produced garden statue sits nearby. Our minds may begin to whirl, working to make meaning from these assorted images.



High up on the rear wall a beautiful old blue-painted wooden door floats over the scene. Is this a metaphor for escape, or for an opportunity in life – to make the next move, opening a door to future possibilities? Morning Glories have been planted, and climbing strings for them set in place, so the door may become somewhat obscured and overgrown as the growing season continues.

There is a reference to the archetype of the medieval Marian Garden – sequestered meditation gardens on the theme of the Virgin Mary – with the inclusion of a garden statue (lovingly aged by the artists) of a calm, standing woman, holding flowers across her chest.



None of these readings needs to be specific, and none is necessary to appreciate the calm beauty of this wonderful garden in the Gallery's open-air courtyard. But for a true artists' garden, surely we expect some charm, some symbolism, some conjuring of magical realms. And in these aspects, Lock and Warren have succeeded beautifully.

Installation Images

May 3, 2017







February 6, 2017







December 9, 2016





November 10, 2016







September 22, 2016









September 13, 2016





August 11, 2016







July 6, 2016





June 9, 2016







May 20, 2016







May 19, 2016



May 18, 2016



May 16, 2016





May 13, 2016







May 11, 2016





Wanda Lock

Selected Biography

Born: Oliver, BC, 1969

Education

1992 Emily Carr College of Art and Design, Vancouver BC, Four year diploma – Studio Major (painting and drawing)

1989 Okanagan College, Kelowna BC, Studio Major (art history, painting, drawing and printmaking)

Solo Exhibitions

2013 *Flying Machines and Poems Sung by Strangers*, Kelowna Art Gallery's satellite space at the Kelowna International Airport, Kelowna, BC

2009 *Pitching Tents*, Vernon Public Art Gallery, Vernon, BC

2008 *Stacks & Piles: Recent Work by Wanda Lock*, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

2006 *Place Explained ...*, Art Ark Gallery, Kelowna BC

2005 *You told me once, but I forgot*, Gallery Vertigo, Vernon, BC

2004 *Crush*, Art Gallery of the South Okanagan, Penticton, BC

1997 *New Work*, Alternator Gallery, Kelowna, BC

1995 *New Work*, Vancouver Community Arts Council Gallery, Vancouver

Group Exhibitions

2015 *OAR Exhibition*, fina Gallery UBCO, Kelowna, BC

Elementary BASIC: A Steampunk Primer, Penticton Art Gallery, Penticton, BC

Steamrolled: How Steam Colonized the West, Penticton Art Gallery, Penticton, BC

Superheroes & Supervillians, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

2014 *Sotto Voce*, Lake Country Art Gallery, Lake Country, BC
Styx n Stones, Penticton Art Gallery, Penticton, BC
Welcome Home, Penticton Art Gallery, Penticton, BC
Day Job, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

2013 *Salonus Paptrus*, Headbones Gallery, Vernon, BC
Saturday Morning Cartoons, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC
Tall Tales, The Art Gallery of St Albert, St Albert, Alberta
Terroir: Physically Speaking, Penticton Art Gallery, Penticton, BC

2012 *Group Show*, Warehouse Gallery, Kelowna, BC
Revision: Member's Show, Alternator Gallery, Kelowna, BC
Exploratorium: Member's Show, Gallery Vertigo, Vernon, BC
Personal Topographies, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC
Members' Wall, Gallery Vertigo, Vernon, BC
Members' Exhibition, Lake Country Art Gallery, Lake Country, BC

2011 *Leon Avenue Banner Project*, Communities in Bloom, Kelowna, BC
Diversity in Drawing, Lake Country Art Gallery, Lake Country, BC
Starting Point, Lake Country Gallery, Lake Country, BC
Migration/Hibernation Show, Victoria Park Gallery, Kincardine, Ontario

2010 *It came from the sky*, Elevation Gallery, Canmore, Alberta
Constructions of Identity, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

2009 six-month installation at the Kelowna Art Gallery's satellite space at the Kelowna International Airport
Strength and Vitality, Elevation Gallery, Canmore, Alberta

2008 *Whimsy*, Front Gallery, Edmonton, Alberta

2007 *Green*, Gallery Vertigo, Vernon, BC

2006 *Narrative?*, The Drawers/Headbones Gallery, Toronto

2005 *By the Book*, Gallery Vertigo, Vernon, BC

2003 *Fresh*, Art Ark, Kelowna, BC

2002 *Fresh*, Art Ark, Kelowna, BC

2001 The Creative Voice: Life and Art in the Okanagan, Gallery 284, Penticton, BC
Celebrating Contemporary BC Visual Art, Artropolis 2001, CBC Broadcast Centre, Vancouver

2000 *No Particular Order*, Okanagan University College Gallery, Kelowna, BC

1997 *Strange Patterns*, Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond, BC

1996 Rosanne Bennett & Wanda Lock: New Work, Gallery XX, Kelowna, BC

1993 *New Work*, Gallery XX, Kelowna, BC

1993 *Wanda Lock: New Work*, Vancouver Community Arts Council Gallery, Vancouver, BC

Public Collections

Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

Penticton Art Gallery, Penticton, BC

Public Art Projects

2015 *Gaudi in the Garden*, Part Two, Cool Arts and Community Gardens Public Art Project, Kelowna, BC

2014 *Gaudi in the Garden*, Cool Arts and Community Gardens Public Art Project, Kelowna, BC

2011 *Leon Avenue Banner Project*, Communities in Bloom, Kelowna, BC

Bibliography

Artropolis: Celebrating Contemporary BC Visual Art. Vancouver: A. T. Eight Artropolis Society, 2001.

Best, Theresa. "In the Gallery," *Arts Vancouver*, Volume XII, No.1, Winter, 1995, p. 5.

Brennan, Maev. "Arts and Entertainment," *Capital News* (Kelowna, BC), September 22, 1993, p. A18.

_____. "Arts and Entertainment," *Capital News* (Kelowna, BC), September 19, 1993, p. A18.

_____. "The Year's Best," *Capital News* (Kelowna, BC), December 30, 1993, p. B4.

Clark, Glenn. "Arts Letter," Art Gallery of the South Okanagan, Vol. XXIV, no. 2, March/April, 2004.

Cook, Glenn. *'Getting Happy at AGSA'*, St Albert Leader, September 4, 2013.

Culen, Lubos. "North Okanagan Open Juried Exhibition: Here and Now," *Vernon Public Art Gallery Newsletter*, Volume 15, No. 5, Sept/Oct, 2006, p. 4.

Crawford, Paul. "Arts Letter", Penticton Art Gallery, Vol. XXXIII, no.2, March/April, 2013

Hawkshaw, Heather. *You told me once, but I forgot*. Vernon: Vertigo Gallery, 2005.

Hayes, Scott. 'Making Noise (Two artists combine talents to show off offbeat fantasy worlds)', St Albert Gazette, September 4, 2013.

Images & Objects X: Contemporary BC Artists: An Exhibition. Vernon, BC: Assembly of BC Arts Councils, 1992.

Johnson, Mia. "Wanda Lock: Stacks and Piles," *Preview* magazine (Vancouver), Nov/Dec/Jan, 2008-9, p. 16.

Moore, Linda. "Artscene," *The Review* (Richmond, BC) September 24, 1997.

Oakes, Julie. *Headbones Anthology 2006*, Toronto: Rich Fog Micro Publishing, 2006.

Oakes, Julie. *Wanda Lock – Headbones Gallery, The Drawers*. Toronto: Rich Fog Micro Publishing, 2006.

Parnell, Kevin. "Acceptance for all takes broad strokes in Lake Country", *Lake Country Calendar* (Lake Country, BC), October 14, 2015, p. A8.

Pearson, Gary. *The Creative Voice Life and Art in the Okanagan*. Prince George, BC: Caitlin Press, 1998.

_____. "Drawing the perfect circle," *Off-Centre Magazine* (Kelowna, BC), Volume 6, Issue 8, August, 2006, p. 12.

Priegert, Portia. "Artropolis," *Event magazine, The Daily Courier* (Kelowna, BC), February 21, 2001, p. 8.

_____. "A breath of fresh art," *Event magazine, The Daily Courier* (Kelowna, BC), November 28, 2002, p. 8.

_____. "Crushed," *Event magazine, The Daily Courier* (Kelowna, BC), March 17, 2004, p. 11

_____. "Fabrics and patterns explored," *Event magazine, The Daily Courier* (Kelowna, BC), June 29, 2005, p. 12.

_____. "Dick and Jane images inspire visiting artist," *Event Magazine, Daily Courier* (Kelowna, BC), Nov 14, 2008, p. 7.

Turnbull, Glenna. "Lock finds voices through the ages ..." *Capital News* (Kelowna, BC), Oct 30, 2008.

_____. "Art combines flying machines and songs of strangers" *The Daily Courier* (Kelowna, BC), Sunday Edition, June 9, 2013.

Vanyork, Stephanie. "Artropolis 2001 ..." *The Calendar*. (Winfield, BC) April 4, 2001, p. 17.

Wylie, Liz. "Something I have been meaning to tell you," in *Stacks and Piles: Recent Work by Wanda Lock*. Kelowna: Kelowna Art Gallery, 2008.

_____. "Stacks and Piles: Recent work by Wanda Lock," *Capital News* (Kelowna, BC), Oct 29, 2008, p. B15.

_____. "Piecing it Together," in *Constructions of Identity: Recent Acquisitions from the Permanent Collection of the Kelowna Art Gallery*. Kelowna: Kelowna Art Gallery, 2010.

_____. "Lake Country's Lock installs art at YLW", *Lake Country Calendar* (Lake Country, BC), May 22, 2013, p. A8

Young, James. "Two-by-two in the Ark," *SNAP Okanagan*, Volume 1, No. 3, October, 2006, p. 17.

Committees/Volunteer Experience

2015-present Okanagan Art Review, Kelowna, BC

2015 CentrePiece Committee, Lake Country, BC
Lake Country Rail Trail Action Committee, Lake Country, BC

2013-August 2014 Lake Country Art Gallery board member, Lake Country, BC

2007-present Lake Country Public Art Advisory Commission, Lake Country, BC

2003 Art for Kid's Sake' Fundraising Committee for Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Kelowna, BC

2001-2007 Acquisitions Committee, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

Work Experience

October 2015-present Curator, Lake Country Art Gallery, Lake Country, BC

2009-2014 Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

Art Instructor (painting, mixed media, collage)

1994-2006 Opus Framing and Art Supplies, Kelowna, BC

1995-2006 Manager of the Kelowna Opus store

1992-1994 Kelowna and District Boys & Girls Club

Rena Warren

Selected Biography

Born: 1969, Prince George, BC

Education

2009 TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language certificate), Oxford via UBCO, Kelowna, BC

2003 Bachelor in Education, Post-Degree, University of Victoria, Victoria, BC

1995 Bachelor of Fine Arts, University of Victoria via Okanagan University College, Kelowna, BC

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2015 *Rena Warren: Mothers and Lovers at the Easel of Ego and Id*, Rotary Centre for the Arts, Kelowna, BC
Mothers and Lovers at the Easel of Ego and Id, Float Space, Kelowna BC

2012 I, Alternator Centre for Contemporary Art, Kelowna, BC
I, Rotary Centre for the Arts, Kelowna, BC
It is Written, Rena Warren, Streaming Café, Kelowna, BC
Mandalas by Rena Warren, The Yoga House, Kelowna, BC

2011 *Selected paintings by Rena Warren*, The Yoga House, Kelowna, BC

Selected Group Exhibitions

2014 *Night of 1000 Lights*, Artisan House, Kelowna, BC
Art Teachers' Exhibition, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC
Day Job, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

2013 *Mad Hatter*, ARTSCO, Kelowna, BC
Art Teachers' Exhibition, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

2012 *Art Teachers' Exhibition*, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC
Jail Bird Show, Habitat, Kelowna, BC
Okanagan Erotic Art Show, Ex Nihilo Winery, Lake Country, BC

2011 *Art Teachers' Exhibition*, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC
The Memory Project, Okanagan Heritage Museum, Kelowna, BC

2010 *Art Teachers' Exhibition*, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

2000 *OPUS*, Okanagan University College, Kelowna, BC

Teaching Experience

2003-2009 Art Specialist, Vedanta Academy, Kelowna, B.C

2009-present Adult, teen and pre-school art classes, Kelowna Art Gallery, Kelowna, BC

2010-present Executive Director, Cool Arts Society, Kelowna, BC

2011 Art instructor, Summer Arts School for Youth, (SASFY), Kelowna, BC

2012-14 Instructor, Special Education, Okanagan University College, Kelowna, BC

2014-present School District # 23, professional development workshops for art teachers, Kelowna, BC

2012-14 Art instructor, adult art classes, Canadian Mental Health Association, Kelowna, BC

Awards

2014 Art Education Award, Okanagan Arts Awards, ARTSCO, Kelowna, BC

Bibliography

Aronovitch, Davida. "On Art From Memory: Q&A with Kelowna-based artist Rena Warren." #Canadian Heritage Tumblr undated <https://www.tumblr.com/search/davida%20aronovitch>

Brennan, Katie. "Okanagan Art Review ARTIST GATHERING #2 with Rena Warren," *Okanagan Art Review* (Kelowna, BC), March 23, 2015. <http://www.okanaganartreview.com/okanagan-art-review-artist-gathering-2-with-rena-warren/>

Gervais, Joanne. "Interview with artist, educator, artisan extraordinaire!," *Oook Magazine* (Kelowna, BC), December 15, 2011. <http://ook.ca/tag/rena-warren/>

____. "Interview with artist, educator, artisan Rena Warren – part 2," *Oook Magazine* (Kelowna, BC), January 5, 2012. <http://oook.ca/2012/01/interview-with-artist-educator-artisan-rena-warren-part-2/>

Lock, Wanda. "Friday Morning Coffee with Rena Warren," *Okanagan Art Review* (Kelowna, BC,) December 19, 2014 <http://www.okanaganartreview.com/friday-morning-coffee-with-rena-warren/>

Smith, Jennifer. "Rena Warren renders Kelowna Art Gallery students artistic," *Capital News* (Kelowna, BC), January 26, 2012. http://www.bclocalnews.com/okanagan_similkameen/kelownabuzz/entertainment/138165844.html?mobile=true

____ "Draw the Line: One man's garbage is another man's treasure," *Capital News* (Kelowna, BC), March 2, 2012. <http://www.kelownacapnews.com/entertainment/141219833.html> <http://kelownaartgallery.com/media/guest-writers/jennifer-smith/>

Publications by the Artist

Warren, Rena. "Everyone is an Artist," *Okanagan Family Magazine* (Kelowna, BC), September 21, 2015. <http://okanaganfamilymagazine.ca/2015/09/21/everyone-is-an-artist/>