

Art inside, and Outside, the Red Brick

By **Linda Gerdenich**

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Courtesy of Mark Yale Harris

One of Aspen's best-kept secrets is the fabulous Red Brick Center for the Arts, where Aspen Street meets Hallam Stret. This unique space exhibits art inside, outside and within the working artist studios. On the lawn, nine artists were selected to exhibit their works ranging from marble to bronze, wood to steel. This is the third year for this exhibition space, managed by Executive Director Debra Muzikar.

"I was trying to come up with a way to use our beautiful lawn," states Muzikar. "Many of our neighbors, and of course our arts organization tenants, enjoy lunch on the lawn. And from their experience, our sculpture garden was born."

Interested artists apply in the spring. Applications are presented to an anonymous jury who select the pieces to be displayed. This years artists include: Gregory Tonozzi, who created "Trying to Keep Things Together," made from granite and marble; D'Arcy Bellamy, who created two steel pieces entitled "Evolution" and "Square Dance" located in front of the west end foyer; Alicia Matesanz de las Heras, who created "Tipiti," made from wood and ceramic; Susan Olsen's "Badda Konasana" aka "Serenity"; "Kingmaker," a steel, brass and glass creation from Joe Burleigh; "Twisted Cartesian," a piece of plastic by Bill Wiener; *Mark Yale Harris'* "Got It"; "Grasse Deco," a piece resembling fire by Sean McWilliams; and "Well Red," a piece brought to the garden by the family of Gene Adcock.

"The Red Brick Sculpture Garden represents a terrific community effort to have a formal sculpture display, Olsen says. "As a board member and a resident artist, I feel that the Red Brick Council brings many opportunities to the Aspen arts community."

Many Aspenites will remember the saga of how the Red Brick was created. When the school district moved to the Maroon Creek Road campus, the Red Brick was empty. Arts organizations asked the city if some arrangement could be made for them at the Red Brick. An August 1992 vote resulted in the creation of the Red Brick. The most interesting aspect, however, was that it passed by only three votes.

"Community feedback that I remember was that the city would never be able to fill the Red Brick, and the tax payers would end up subsidizing it," states city clerk Kathryn S. Koch.

Seventeen years later, eight nonprofit organizations and 10 artists are housed in the Red Brick, and the waiting list for tenants and artists is long. A newly renovated conference room sees extensive community usage. Outstanding art graces the halls with exhibits changing monthly. A Red Brick resident artist program provides free workshops to the community.

From 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 1, the Red Brick will celebrate its fifth annual Art Auction and Festival. Included will be an auction of more than 100 pieces of art as well as 100 donations from the business community.

"This year's auction, our major fundraiser, helps us produce programs throughout the year, including Aspen Kids Art Show, arts scholarships, free community workshops, the sculpture garden, and gallery exhibitions," says Muzikar. "We are here to promote the arts in the community."

Pre-bidding and viewing of art will begin July 27. Since the Red Brick promotes all forms of art, Aspen Dance Connection, Hudson Reed Ensemble, Aspen Music Festival and School, and the Smuggler Bluegrass Band will perform. In addition, several artists will be giving art demonstrations.

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