

GreaterRestonArtsCenter

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Reston, VA 20190
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Gallery hours: Tues – Sat 11am – 5pm
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Divining Nature: An Elemental Garden

Rebecca Kamen

October 1 – November 14, 2009

Saturday, October 17 – Reception and Catalog Signing
5 – 7pm, gallery talk at 6pm

RESTON, VA: The Greater Reston Arts Center is pleased to present Rebecca Kamen's *Divining Nature: An Elemental Garden*, a sculpture installation inspired by the periodic table of chemical elements. Kamen transforms the arts center's octagonal gallery into a spiral garden of luminous, white "flowers" representing the eighty-three naturally occurring elements. Each flower is comprised of white Mylar tiers supported on slender fiberglass stems. The number of tiers (or petals) corresponds to the element's orbital pattern while the number of stems is based on its electrons.

Beginning with the simplest elements attached to a column like vines clinging to a garden wall, the flowers rotate out and flow around the gallery floor in a mathematical pattern based on the Golden Section and the Fibonacci Spiral. As the flowers move farther away from the center they grow larger and more complex, illuminating both the meaning and beauty of the periodic table.

A key component of the installation is the original soundscape developed by composer Susan Alexjander and based on the unique nuclear vibrations emitted by the elements. Using a synthesizer, Alexjander collects the exact individual frequencies of each element and arranges them into harmonious, shimmering sound that floats over the garden providing a complimentary sensory experience.

While Kamen's garden of elements transforms the arts center's main gallery into a floating sea of pagoda-like forms, in an adjacent gallery the artist uses the geometric forms of the Platonic Solids to create wall-mounted sculptures inspired by the five original elements: Earth, Fire, Water, Air, and Cosmos.

Kamen is well-known as a sculptor and educator who creates thoughtful bodies of work based on science. Her sculptures have been exhibited nationally and internationally and she is the recipient of numerous awards including a Virginia Museum of Fine Art Professional Fellowship, a Strauss Fellowship from the Arts Council of Fairfax County, and a Pollack Krasner Foundation Grant. **Her unique process, based on wide ranging research into science, cosmology, spirituality, and philosophy yields sculptures that begin with complex concepts and transform into distilled objects of refined beauty.**

Another hallmark of Kamen's process is her keen interest in collaboration. **In addition to the important association resulting in the soundscape by Susan Alexjander, the artist joined forces with architect Alick Dearie to develop a precise installation layout based on mathematic principles.** Dearie's elegant drawings are included in the exhibition catalog documenting the installation.

In yet another alliance, choreographer Jane Franklin, who is well regarded for her unique collaborations in unusual locations, will present an evening of dance within *Divining Nature* on October 21st.

Divining Nature: An Elemental Garden is funded in part by the Arts Council of Fairfax County supported by Fairfax County. Additional support was provided by Helen and Ronald Dunn. Greater Reston Arts Center is also grateful for program support from the Reston Community Center. GRACE programs are sponsored in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Appetite for Art: Contemporary Art Series

Co-sponsored by the Reston Community Center

Mondays, October 5, 19, 26, and November 9

10:30 am – Noon

Call Reston Community Center for registration and fees

Art with a Twist: Jane Franklin Dance Company

Sponsored by the Virginia Commission for the Arts

Wednesday, October 21

7:30-9pm

Fee: \$5 members; \$10 nonmembers

Family Workshop: The Blooming Universe with Storyteller, Tina Devine

Saturday, October 24

10am - Noon

Call GRACE for registration and program fees

hub theatre at GreaterRestonArtsCenter

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Staged Reading

November 5, Thursday

7:30-9:30 pm

Free

Teen Night: Closing Party for Divining Nature

Co-sponsored by the Reston Community Center

November 12, Thursday

6:30 - 8:30pm

Free

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