



Visit on 02 January 2025. Pictures & Presentation: Beate Matthies



THE CLASSICAL GARDEN

This Garden has some elements that are typical of Classical Gardens: cherubs, friezes, fountains, ponds, lions and the idyllic imagery of an imagined era from which the realities of life - financial stress, family conflict, job insecurity, and so on - don't exist.

Classical Gardens were an innocent form of escape from the problems of everyday life, and they can fulfil that role today.

The Garden also has a feature from the streets of Paris. Most of the street trees in Paris are London Plane Trees. They're pruned to stand tall and slender, and they look magnificent when they are planted in pavements of white gravel.





"Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realise they were the big things."
Robert Brault

"If you have two coins, spend one on a loaf and one on a flower. The bread will give you life and the flower a reason for living."

THE REFLECTIVE GARDEN

Why do people like gardens? Flowers? Landscapes?
Picturesque vineyards?

The Irish philosopher and writer John O'Donohue said:

"The human soul is hungry for beauty; we seek it everywhere - in landscapes, music, art, clothes, furniture, gardening, companionship, love, religion, and in ourselves."

"When we experience the beautiful, there is a sense of homecoming"

This is The Reflective Garden where you can reflect on the purpose and benefits of gardens.

A GARDEN AS A WORK OF ART

The famous Impressionist painter Claude Monet made a wonderful garden at Giverny, near Paris.

It was restored in 1980 and is one of the most visited gardens in the world.

Each year about 600,000 people crowd its narrow paths during the months when it's open to the public.

Monet's paintings, many of which are of his garden and waterlily pond at Giverny, are some of the most popular and valuable paintings in the world.

Yet Monet said his garden was of greater importance than any of his paintings:

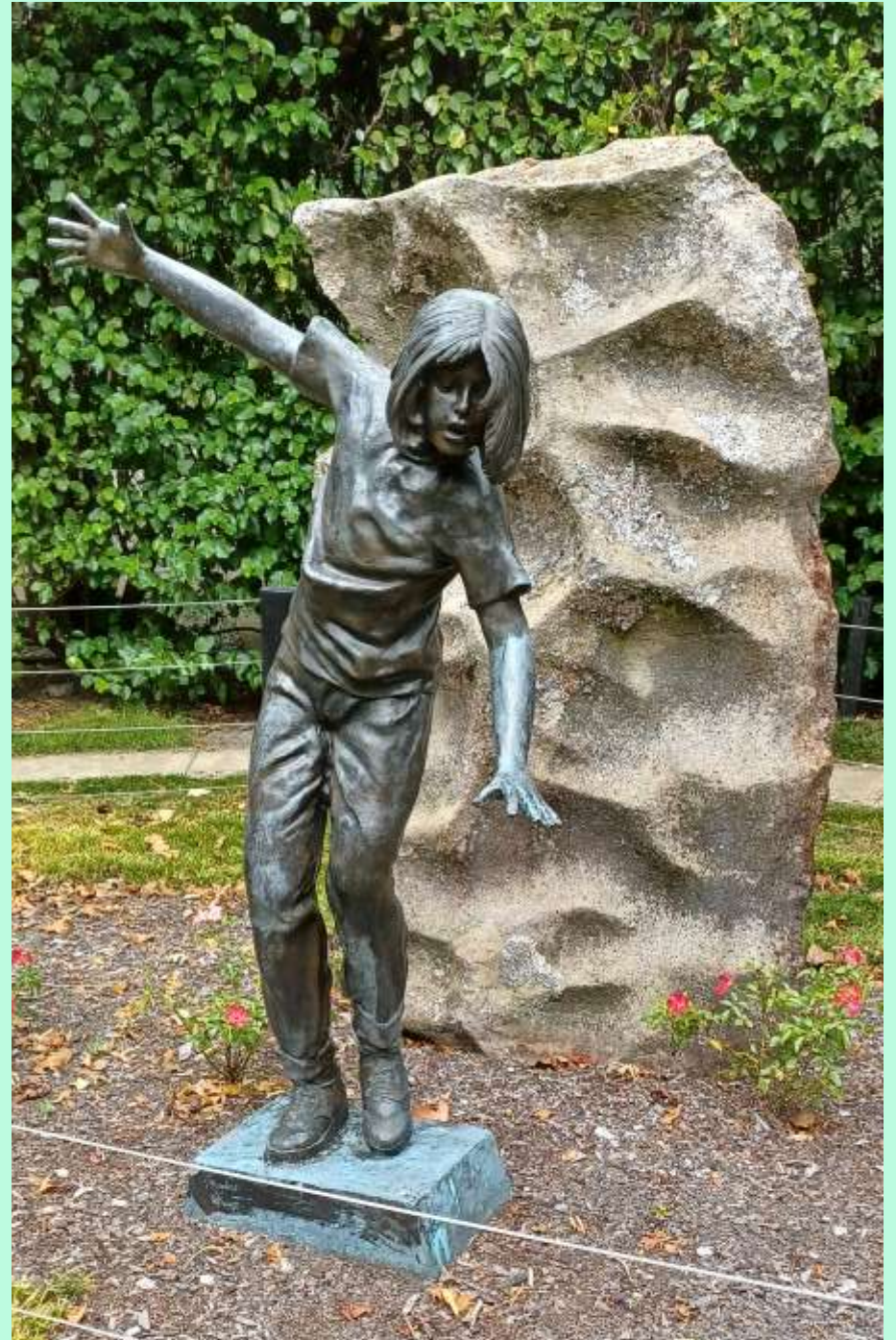
"My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece."

This was not feigned modesty. The art world has belatedly come to recognise the artistic credentials of excellent garden design.

In 2015 a spokesman for the Royal Academy of Arts in London said of Monet's Garden that it was *"the first great art installation of the 20th century."* The garden Monet created at Giverny confirms how a garden can be one of the highest forms of artistic achievement.











What holds up this swing?



THE LAUGHING HIPPO

Same sculpture—different angle...







LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES
AND CONSTANTLY WORK TO
IMPROVE YOUR LIFE.

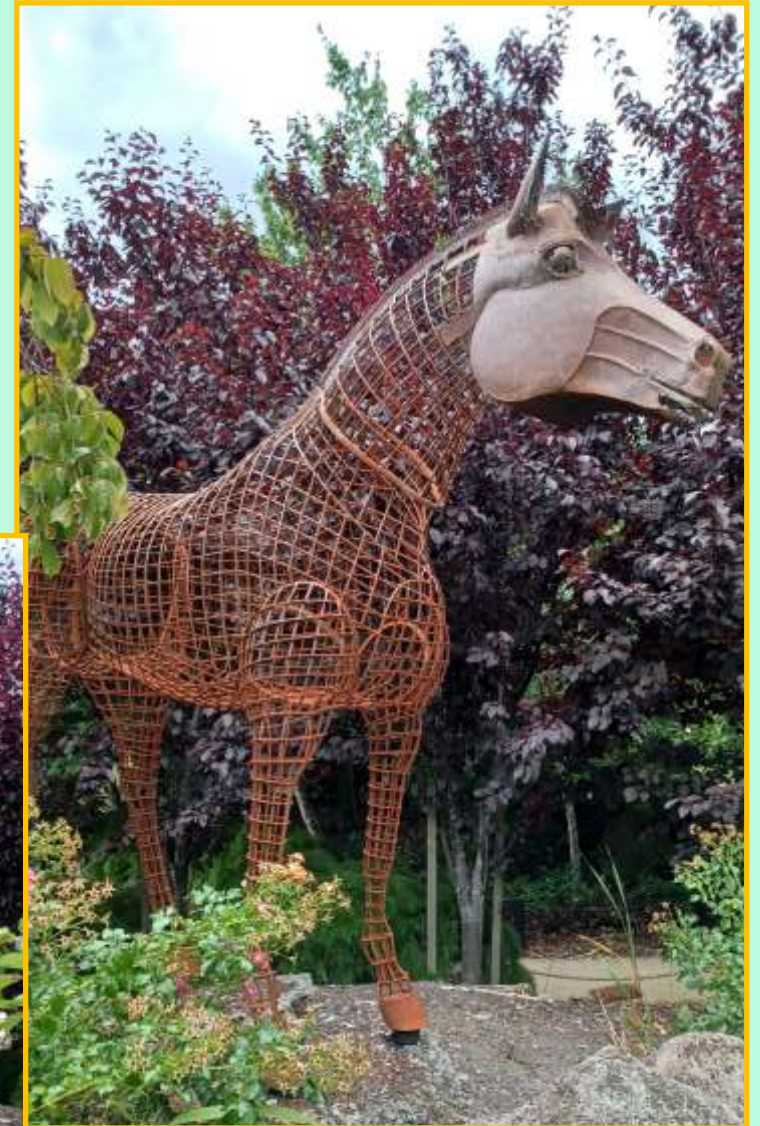
DON'T PLAY
THE BLAME-AND-SHAME GAME.
JUST PROVE YOUR CRITICS WRONG.

REMEMBERING THAT YOU ARE
GOING TO DIE
IS THE BEST WAY I KNOW
TO AVOID THE TRAP OF THINKING
YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO LOSE.
YOU ARE ALREADY NAKED.
THERE IS NO REASON NOT
TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART.

YOU'VE GOT TO FIND WHAT YOU LOVE.
WHY?
YOUR WORK IS GOING TO FILL A LARGE
PART OF YOUR LIFE, AND THE ONLY
WAY TO BE TRULY SATISFIED IS TO
DO WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS GREAT WORK.
AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO GREAT
WORK IS TO
LOVE WHAT YOU DO. DON'T SETTLE.

PEOPLE SAY YOU HAVE TO HAVE A
LOT OF PASSION FOR WHAT YOU ARE
DOING AND IT'S TOTALLY TRUE.
AND THE REASON IS BECAUSE IT'S SO
HARD THAT IF YOU DON'T,
ANY RATIONAL PERSON
WOULD GIVE UP.







BOAR ROCK

The wild boars are so adaptable to diverse habitat that they are wide spread around the world.



CAN OTHER ARTISTIC INSPIRATIONS BE A KIND OF MEDICINE?

There is an increasing amount of scientific evidence which shows that art enhances brain function. It has an impact on brain wave patterns and emotions, the nervous system, and as with music, it can raise serotonin levels.

Not all art does this. The influence must create awe, wonder or beauty. The fact *"that awe, wonder and beauty promote healthier levels of cytokines suggest the things we do to experience these emotions - a walk in nature, losing oneself in music, beholding art - has a direct influence upon health and life expectancy"*

Dr D Keltner, UC Berkeley

This is what another expert has said:

"Engagement with creative activities has the potential to contribute toward reducing stress and depression and can serve as a vehicle for alleviating the burden of chronic disease.... The more we understand the relationship between creative expression and healing, the more we will discover the healing power of the arts."



A flower
made of
plastic
buckets...







A Memorial to the Innocent

The white columns are a memorial to New Zealand animals which are now extinct. The red at the base of the columns represents their blood. They lived here long before us, and had a greater right to call this country home, but the humans who came later to this land destroyed them with their selfishness, exploitation, and neglect.

Bush moa	15th century	New Zealand Musk duck	16th century	Long-billed wren	1892
Hodgen's waterhen	16th century	New Zealand Geese	16th century	Stephens Island wren	1894
Adzebill	16th century	New Zealand Swan	16th century	North Island takahe	1894?
Giant moa	16th century	Scarlett's duck	16th century	North Island plover	1900
Upland moa	16th century	Eyle's harrier	1777	Huia	28 Dec 1907
Eastern moa	16th century	Crested moa	1850s	Laughing owl	5 July 1914
Coastal moa	16th century	North Island snipe	1870	South Island plover	1963
Heavy-footed moa	16th century	Finsch's Duck	1870	South Island snipe	1960s
Haast's eagle	16th century	New Zealand little bittern	1872	Bush wren	1972
New Zealand raven	16th century	New Zealand quail	1875		

SENTIMENTALITY IN ART

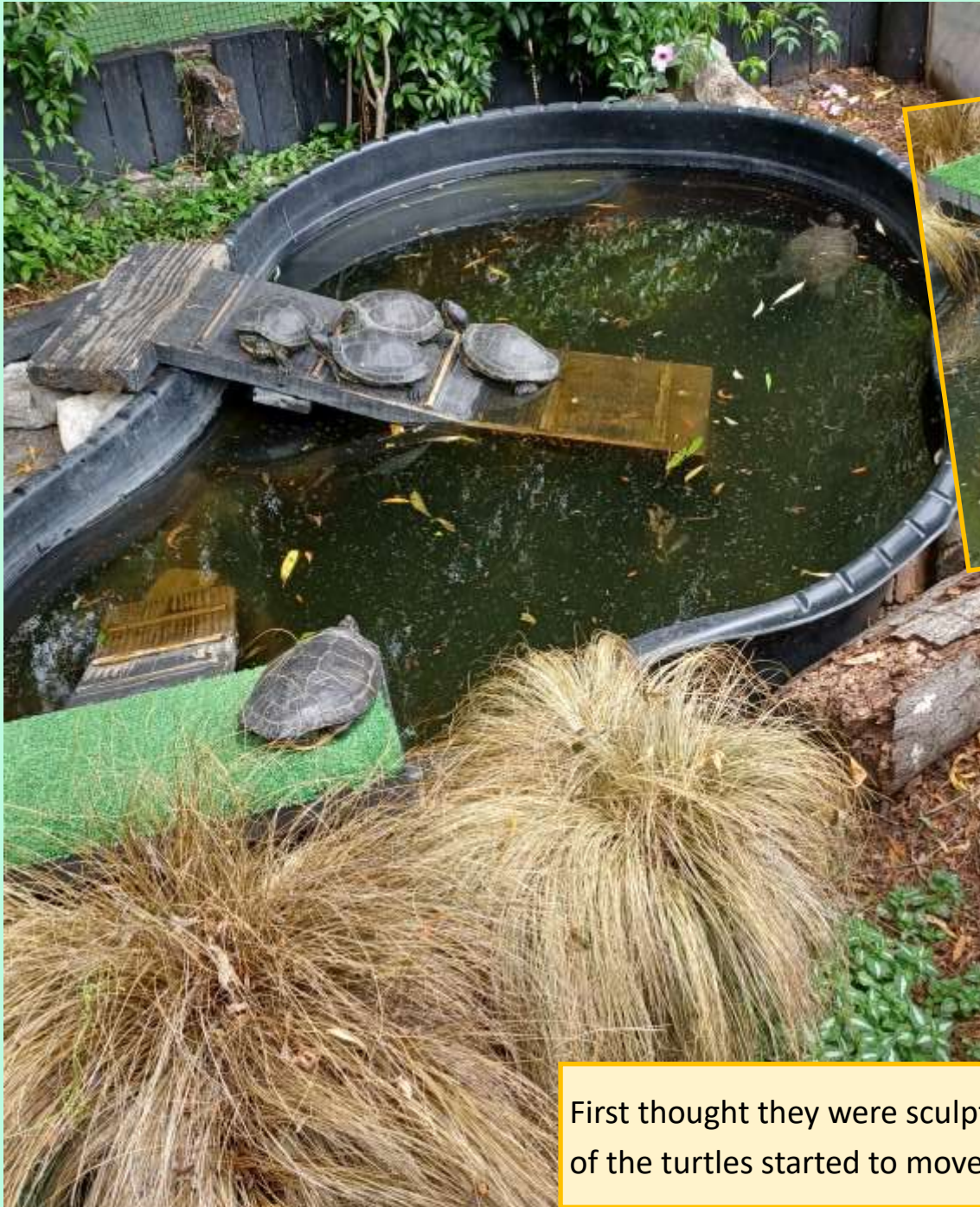
TESSA IS A SENTIMENTAL WORK. MANY ART EXPERTS DECRY SENTIMENTALITY IN ART BUT THE MARKET LIKES IT.

JEFF KOONS, AN AMERICAN ARTIST WHO SAYS HE WAS ONE OF THE THREE MOST SIGNIFICANT ARTISTS OF THE 20TH CENTURY, ACHIEVED THE HIGHEST PRICE FOR A LIVING ARTIST IN 2013 WHEN ONE OF HIS BALLOON DOGS WAS SOLD FOR US\$58.4M.

THAT RECORD WAS ECLIPSED BY DAVID HOCKNEY IN 2018 BUT ANOTHER OF KOONS' WORKS ACHIEVED A HIGHER PRICE IN 2019 (US\$91.1M), THIS TIME IT WAS A THREE FOOT TALL METAL RABBIT IN THE FORM OF A BALLOON. TWO OF THE LAST THREE HIGHEST PRICES FOR AN ARTWORK BY A LIVING ARTIST HAVE THEREFORE BEEN ACHIEVED BY SENTIMENTAL WORKS.







First thought they were sculptures—until one of the turtles started to move...



There were many ways for the turtle to exit the pond after a long swim, but this turtle chose to step over the other turtles...





THESE TWO ELEPHANTS WERE MADE BY JACK MARSDEN-MEYER. JACK'S FROM ENGLAND BUT HE NOW LIVES IN NEW ZEALAND. HE MADE THESE WORKS WITH DRIFTWOOD FROM THE WHANGANUI RIVER. THE BIG ELEPHANT WAS MODELLED ON A PHOTO OF KASHIN WHO WAS A FAMOUS ELEPHANT AT THE AUCKLAND ZOO.

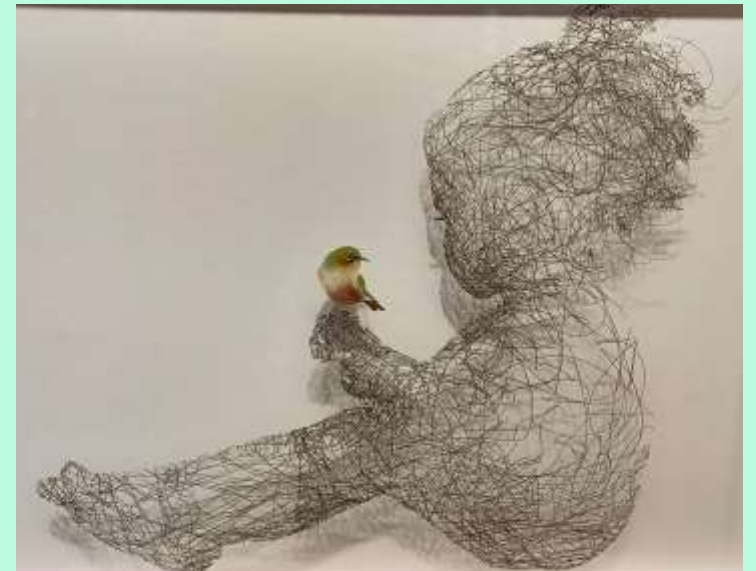






This work is called "You are what you eat" and it was made by Don Charles of Seattle. The goat's fur is made of forks, which the goat is eating - hence the name, "You are what you eat."

This work illustrates the ingenuity of artistic creation. Don Charles looked at goats and saw how he could turn forks into fur.





“Rain Man” by
Michael Kraus



[click here to watch
a short video clip](#)





MAORI PEOPLE HAVE TRADITIONALLY DECORATED THEIR FACES WITH TATTOOS. THE PRACTICE WAS ALMOST LOST UNDER EUROPEAN INFLUENCE BUT THERE'S BEEN A REVIVAL IN RECENT YEARS. THIS HEAD WAS CARVED BY DALLAS MATOE.



