

Art and the Garden

David Dunn, Rideau Woodland Ramble

I have often said that the garden is like a painting, so it follows that a series of garden rooms can have the impact of a gallery. Any good art show will contain a range of art to stimulate the senses, including the unexpected. I think adding a touch of the unexpected in a garden provides surprise and a sense of humor that adds a whole new dimension to the garden experience.

The addition of sculpture to the garden is a dramatic move that seems to elevate the importance of the garden experience, and enliven the senses. They can provide a focal point, or a sense of destination, or simply contrast of a solid element against an herbaceous border.

Colour

In the Gardens at the Ramble we have used art to punch colour into the garden. Intense, highly saturated colours such as cobalt blue are always amazing in nature. In this case, Mark Clarks "Blue Commotion" is a combination of steel and concrete and mobile elements.



Contrast

We provide for some sharp contrast with Peter Doef's "Constitutional Debate", a pristine white capturing the sun, contrasted against the dark forest wall. This dramatic sculpture also provides a sense of destination at the end of a long walk.



Humour

The garden at the Ramble are famous for the surprise of Turtles racing up the trees, frogs in trees, or a huge frog collection at Lake Ramble. A wry wit will allow you to do just about anything in this vein...such as fat frogs!

Surprise

One of the cool things about art in the garden is the ability to surprise the viewer. The sense of surprise in the garden just adds to the urge to explore and see what else you can discover. It can be as simple as the creative placement of rocks, interesting textured stones, or driftwood. If you visit the Ramble you can find rocks carved with inspirational words tucked throughout, even a boulder carved with frogs!



Whimsy

Art is in the eye of the beholder, and that means just about anything qualifies as art. You can see formal, informal, traditional, and the unexpected. I always enjoy touches of whimsy in the garden. In one garden I toured I saw a very creative and humorous application of the kitchen sink! Anything is possible, so let freedom reign!

Art is a very important element in the garden.....like Robert Bateman used to say, it's like the sparkle in the birds eye that makes him come alive!

Rideau Woodland Ramble
We will **capture** your imagination!

Rideau Woodland Ramble (613-258-3797) is open from April to November, 7 days a week from 9am-5pm, and carries a range of cascading plants for sale that can be seen in their display gardens

www.rideauwoodlandramble.com

All Photos by Dave Dunn 2007

Display Gardens & Nursery

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