

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Are these real bees?**

Yes. Please be aware of the bees' presence and take caution when viewing the sculpture. Visitors viewing the sculpture in The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden do so at their own risk.

### **Can the bees sting?**

Yes, but they are not inclined to do so unless they are provoked. All entrances to the Sculpture Garden have signs indicating the presence of an active beehive.

### **What kind of bees are they?**

Italian honeybees, which are bred for their docility.

### **Why do they sting?**

They are more likely to sting when they become irritated, and reasons might include an attack on the hive or aggressive actions toward the bees. Bees tend to become more nervous during periods of high barometric pressure (when it is about to rain) or in close proximity to very heavy perfume. The sculpture is placed in a plant bed, with the hive 10 feet away from public paths. Keeping a 10-foot distance from the hive will greatly reduce the likelihood of agitating the bees.

### **What should I do if a bee approaches me?**

Stay calm, keep your mouth closed, and move away slowly. It will likely lose interest in you.

### **What if I get stung?**

Try to scrape the stinger out with a fingernail or the edge of a credit card. Try not to squeeze it out, as this may release more venom into the skin. If you are concerned about a bee sting, let a security officer know or seek medical attention.

### **Are the bees harmed by this display?**

The building of the hive and its installation take place under the constant supervision of a professional beekeeper who ensures that the bees are not at risk from participating in the artwork. The Museum is committed to creating a safe environment for visitors, artists, and participants, including animals. At the close of the exhibition, the beekeeper will remove the bees to his farm.

### **Who is taking care of the bees on a regular basis?**

Andrew Cote, a local beekeeper and proprietor of Andrew's Honey, visits the hive twice daily to care for and monitor the bees.