

The Museum of Modern Art

June 1991

THE ABBY ALDRICH ROCKEFELLER SCULPTURE GARDEN

One of New York's most delightful outdoor spaces, The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden is celebrated for its setting of sculpture, trees, fountains, and reflecting pools. Refurbished in 1989 in honor of its fiftieth anniversary, the Garden has been a unique feature of The Museum of Modern Art since it opened in its permanent home in 1939.

The current Garden, designed in 1953 by Philip Johnson, was named in honor of the late Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., one of the founders of the Museum. Through the Museum's expansions in 1964 and 1984, the Garden has remained in design and spirit true to Johnson's original scheme.

The Sculpture Garden is divided into three areas: an east terrace, a central sunken garden, and a terrace to the west. Another terrace overlooks the main garden from the second-floor Members Dining Room at the Garden's east end. Groves of European cutleaf birch, little-leaf linden, and weeping beech are planted in beds in several areas, and English ivy, used throughout as ground cover, lends unity. London plane trees, Andromeda, and a variety of seasonal plantings contribute to the overall harmony of art with nature.

Sculpture from the Museum's collection is on view, including such masterpieces as Henri Matisse's *The Backs*; Henry Moore's *Animal Form*; Claes Oldenburg's *Geometric Mouse, Scale A*; Pablo Picasso's *She-Goat*; Auguste Rodin's *Monument to Balzac*; David Smith's *Cubi X*; and William Tucker's *Gymnast, II* (complete list of works attached). Annual support for seasonal plantings is provided by grants in memory of Gardner Cowles, a late trustee.

LIST OF SCULPTURE IN THE GARDEN

Ronald Bladen	<i>Untitled</i>
Scott Burton	<i>Pair of Rock Chairs</i>
Alexander Calder	<i>Black Widow</i>
Max Ernst	<i>The King Playing with the Queen</i>
Bryan Hunt	<i>Big Twist</i>
Gaston Lachaise	<i>Standing Woman</i>
Jacques Lipchitz	<i>Figure</i>
Aristide Maillol	<i>The River</i>
Henri Matisse	<i>The Backs (I, II, III, and IV)</i>
Henry Moore	<i>Animal Form</i>
Claes Oldenburg	<i>Geometric Mouse, Scale A</i>
Pablo Picasso	<i>She-Goat</i>
Auguste Rodin	<i>Monument to Balzac</i>
David Smith	<i>Cubi X</i>
Tony Smith	<i>Free Ride</i>
William Tucker	<i>Gymnast II</i>
Polygnatos Vagis	<i>The Snake</i>

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For further press information, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.