

Reiman Gardens

Shep

title

artist

Nina Ward

Location:
**Reiman Gardens
Children's Garden**
Materials:
**Bronze
and limestone**
Size:
25 x 14 x 30 inches
Date:
1999

Made Possible by:
**Iowa Art in State
Buildings Program* for
Reiman Gardens,
and in memory of
Jamie Joy Helmer**
Acquisition Number:
U2000.58



About the sculpture

Shep, as his nametag states, is a farm dog that has been placed at the entrance of the Children's Garden at Reiman Gardens. With a happy looking face and his right paw extended outwards, *Shep* greets children and adult visitors to the garden with a warm welcome. Although *Shep* is cast in bronze, his thick fur-like body encourages children to shake hands, embrace his neck and pat him on the back.

Artist Nina Ward's first plan for the design of *Shep* was to make several drawings of her own dog. After Ward had a design that she liked, she created several small models, called maquettes, from wet clay. These small models allowed Ward to adjust the proportions and gestures of *Shep* to the exact position that she wanted. After small models were made, Ward moved onto a full size model of *Shep*, which was fired and is now part of the University Museums Permanent Collection. *Shep* was finally shipped to Max-Cast foundry in Kalona, Iowa where *Shep* was cast in bronze, using a sand mold method of casting.

**University Museums Art on Campus Program
Iowa State University Ames, Iowa**

About the artist

Born in New York City, Nina de Creeft Ward grew up in Santa Barbara and Ojai, California. She moved to Iowa in 1975 to reside in Cedar Falls, where she taught art at the University of Northern Iowa for nine years. Her father was the New York sculptor Jose de Creeft, and her mother, Santa Barbara sculptor Alice de Creeft, created bronze sculpture portrait commissions of horses and dogs for a number of years.

Nina Ward has loved animals from an early age, since her mother kept goats and a variety of other animals and her brother had a succession of riding horses. She was twelve when she bought her first horse, Red, out of a field in Goleta, California for twenty dollars. This horse predisposed her to favor draft horses, which she sketched at the Los Angeles County Fair in Pomona, California in her twenties when she was attending Scripps College. Once in Iowa, she drew horses at the Cattle Congress in Waterloo, the Britt Horse Fair, and at the Iowa State Fair. Study drawings done from life serve as reference material for both her printmaking and sculpture.



Ward has a 1956 Bachelors of Art degree from Scripps College, and a 1964 Masters of Fine Art degree from the Claremont Graduate School, and has done additional study at the Massachusetts College of Art. Her solo exhibitions have been held in the Philippines, California, Maryland, Iowa, Chicago, and Kansas City. She is now a full-time artist and carves in wood and stone, works in wax for bronzes, and creates soft sculpture, etchings, woodcuts, and monoprints. Her clay sculptures include a variety of different animals which are sold in a number of galleries and shops throughout the United States.

Biographical information provided by the Iowa State University Library.

Selected other works of sculpture

On Shoulders of Giants, Iowa State University Library, 1998
The Final Pallet, MacNider Art Museum, Mason City, Iowa, 1998
Teamwork, Applied Science Center, Iowa State University, 1995

*Art in State Buildings

The Iowa Art in State Buildings Program was enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa (Chapter 304A, Code 1979. Sections 8-14) to provide for the inclusions of fine arts projects in state building construction projects in cooperation with the Iowa Arts Council.

Shep

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Additional information about the Art on Campus Program, other Art on Campus information sheets and Art on Campus maps are available at the University Museums office, 290 Scheman Building (2nd floor) 515/294-3342, or visit us online at <http://www.museums.iastate.edu>.