

Newsday

"Sculpture gardens in Hamptons, mid-Island"

By Steve Parks

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LI ARTS: Sculpture Gardens in Hamptons, mid-Island



"Navigator" by Kevin Barrett

"The Hamptons can be a crazy scene," says Matko Tomicic, executive director of serene LongHouse Reserve. "First, you're looking for a parking space, then if you go shopping you're looking for your wife. But you can come here and find yourself."

Tomicic describes the East Hampton sculpture garden arboretum as "a contemplative place."

Now in its 20th year, LongHouse mixes cultivation of nature with appreciation of world cultures. Saturday morning Sound Meditations are billed as the "perfect way" to launch a Hamptons weekend, while Monday Twilight Tours help you unwind. Meditations are led by Jim Owen, a landscape designer who traveled to India for spiritual studies. He practices "entrainment," a musical term he uses to explain how to "align yourself with the vibrations of some person, place or thing."

Who knows? Maybe it'll help you find a parking space.

This Saturday's meditation: Learn the how and why of chanting mantras.

Meanwhile, there's the art. New this summer: a series of 9-foot-tall flower silhouettes by Donald Baechler.

A collection of works by Toshiko Takaezu, whose sculptures and installations have long graced the reserve, became a memorial exhibit upon her death in March. The Hawaiian-born artist worked in clay and fabric, transforming functional objects into abstracts.

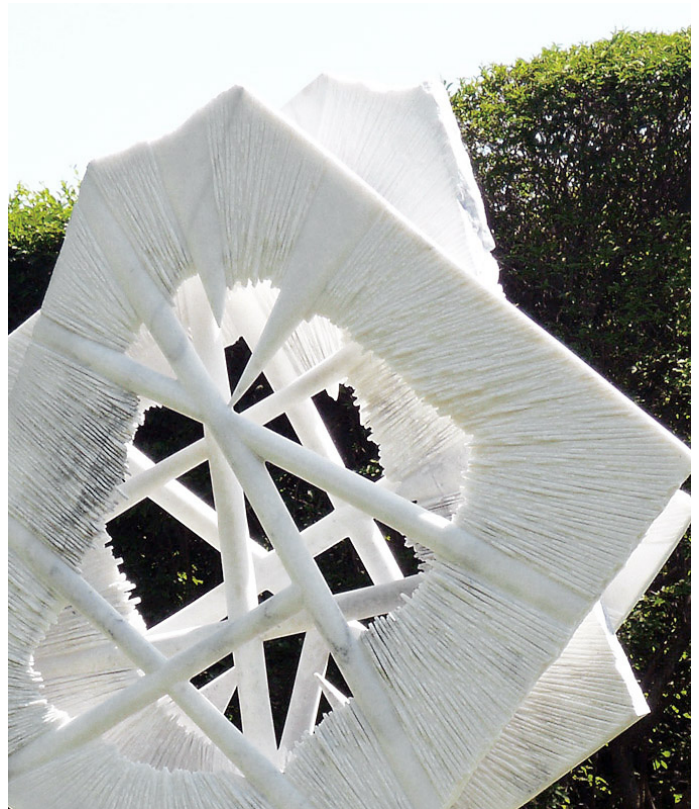
LongHouse Reserve 133 Hands Creek Rd., East Hampton: 2 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays reserve for meditations, tours; longhouse.org, 631-329-3568

Also in the Hamptons:

BRIDGE GARDENS

Following last summer's success, **Cheryl Sokolow of Manhattan's C Fine Art** curated "**Uncommon Ground II**," large-scale sculptures created for the gardens. **Kevin Barrett's** bright orange "**Navigator**" stands at an entranceway, heralding the show beyond. Sokolow included several women's sculptures—unusual in monumental-sized works because, she says, of "heavy labor." Among them, **Caroline Ramersdorfer** created a pair of "**Inner View**" marbles.

Bridge Gardens 36 Mitchell Lane, Bridgehampton: noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, noon to dusk Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. Sundays through Sept. 4; \$10, \$20 per family; peconiclandtrust.org, 631-283-3195



"Inner View_Nexus Interlocked" by Caroline Ramersdorfer

MADOO CONSERVANCY Painter Robert Dash's garden has been a work-in-progress since he moved to this Sagaponack home/studio next to a potato field in the '60s. He celebrates his 80th birthday June 18 with a "Much Ado About Madoo" party. His gardens mix exotic and native plants with architectural whimsy.

Madoo Conservancy 618 Sagg Main St., Sagaponack: noon to 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Sept. 15; \$10, madooconservancy.org, 631-537-8200

SCULPTURE PARK Far from the Hamptons, roam Nassau County Museum of Art's outdoor "gallery." On loan through September is Rona Pondick's stainless steel man/beast "Fox." It's one of about 40 pieces near the formal gardens on the grounds.

Nassau County Museum of Art 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor: 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays, weekend parking \$2; nassaumuseum.com, 516-484-9337

<http://www.longhouse.org/gallery/press/81.pdf>