

**FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON  
REMARKS FOR THE OPENING OF THE SCULPTURE EXHIBITION  
EAST ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE  
JULY 22, 1996**

- Today, we celebrate the fourth and final installment in a series of exhibitions of Twentieth Century American Sculpture at the White House. As most of you know, this exhibit in the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden was inspired, in part, by Mrs. Onassis and her extraordinary artistic and cultural contributions to the White House. There is no place more appropriate for this celebration of American art than in the garden named in her honor.
- The 12 pieces in this exhibition represent the diverse visions and rich talents of sculptors from the Northeastern part of our country. Many of these sculptures have been inspired by the Northeastern landscapes and environments. The sculptors have incorporated such items as twigs from a backyard, old tires, pennies, leaves, and sardine skeletons into their works. Tom Otterness created his bronze sculpture "Head" with the intention of using New York's Wall Street as a backdrop.
- The President and I believe that art should be accessible to everyone because it can offer each of us a deeper understanding of our lives and of the rich cultural traditions we share as a nation and a people. Art can make our spirits soar and remind us of our powers to imagine and to create.
- It gives me great satisfaction and joy to know that the thousands of visitors who pass through the White House have been and will be able to look out the Colonnade window and share in the extraordinary power of these sculptures.
- This exhibition also celebrates the sculptors themselves. Anne Tucker once said "All art requires is courage." So on behalf of the President and myself, I would like to thank the artists who are featured in this exhibit.
- I would also like to thank and recognize the people who have made this exhibit possible. It took enormous generosity, dedication, and wisdom to make this happen.

[Special thanks to Marcia Tucker and the staff of The New Museum of Contemporary Art who curated and organized this exhibit; the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation; J. Carter Brown; the lending institutions; White House Preservation Committee and the White House Historical Association; White House Curator Rex Scouten; The Association of Art Museum Directors]

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