

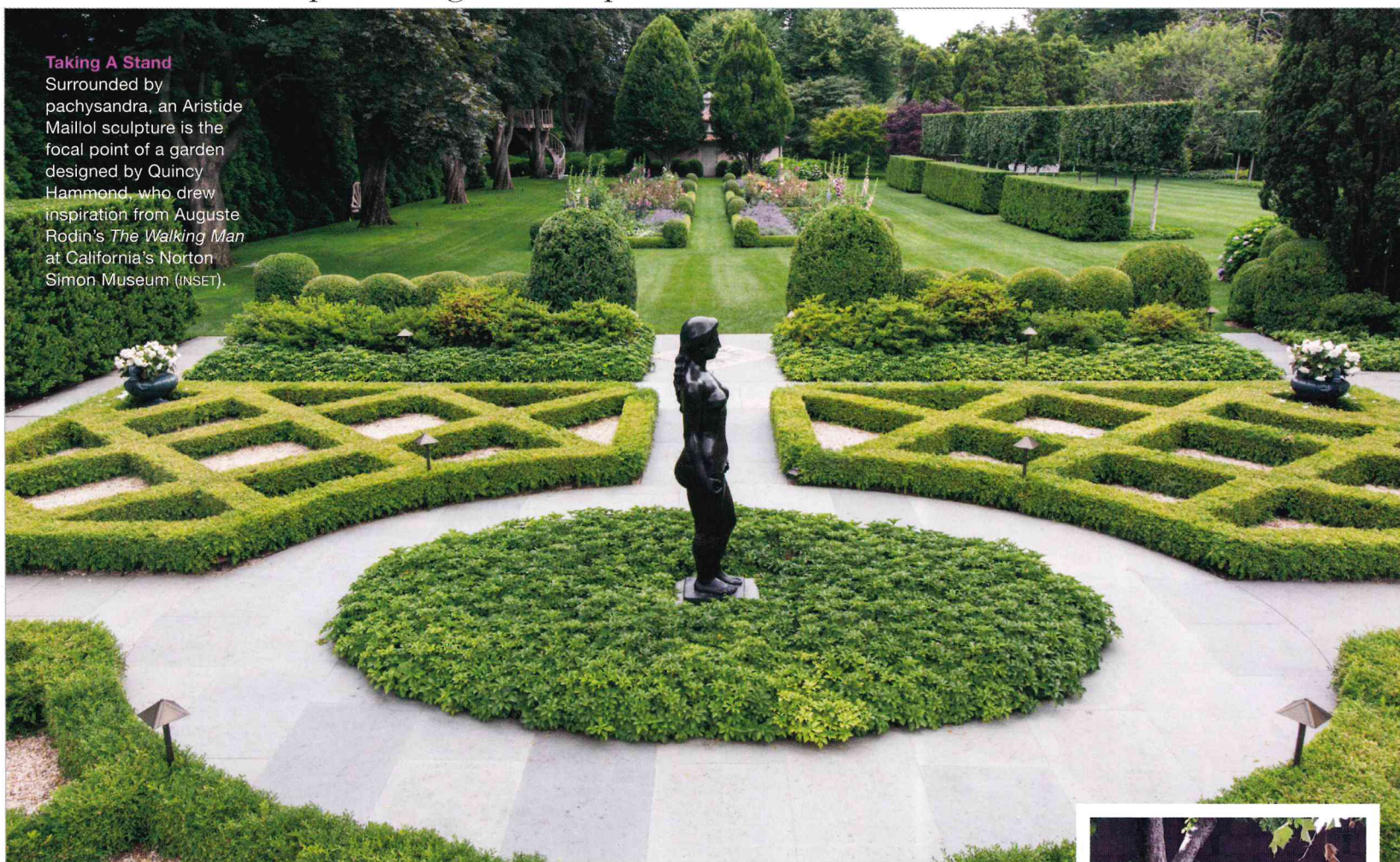


# Sculptural Beauty

Our 2018 panel of garden experts describes how to create artful oases

## Taking A Stand

Surrounded by pachysandra, an Aristide Maillol sculpture is the focal point of a garden designed by Quincy Hammond, who drew inspiration from Auguste Rodin's *The Walking Man* at California's Norton Simon Museum (INSET).



**T**his season, *HC&G*'s panel of garden experts are weighing in on everything from their favorite native plants to poolside garden design to veggie patches. In this second installment, they discuss how they work with artists and clients to place sculptures in garden settings.

### **HC&G: Who decides where artwork goes in a garden?**

**MICHAEL DERRIG:** It's always great if you can work directly with the artist. But for a recent project, we moved several sculptures from a client's Westport landscape to her property on the East End. Since she had lived with the work for a long time, we took our cues directly from her. The pieces are placed organically, so you have to search a little to find them: a Botero behind the pool

house, a George Segal in a corner. In a different garden, we sited a large Sol LeWitt with both the owner and LeWitt's daughter, placing the work off-center on a large lawn.

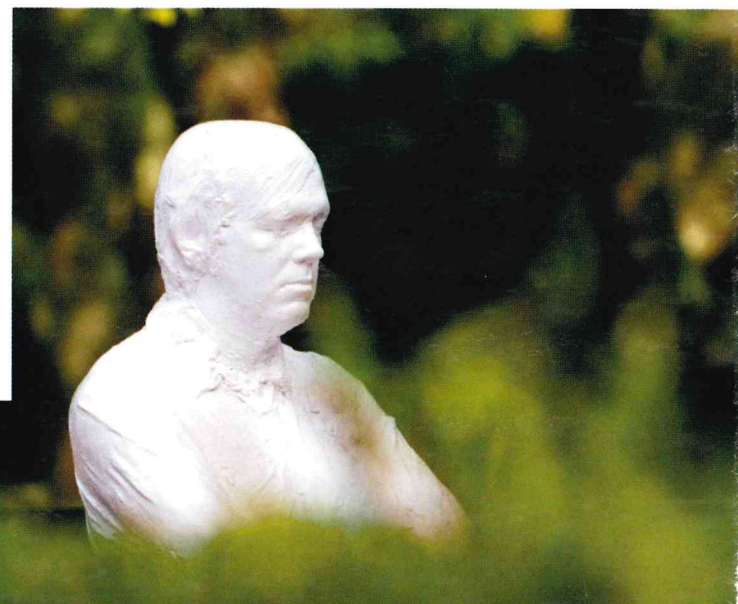
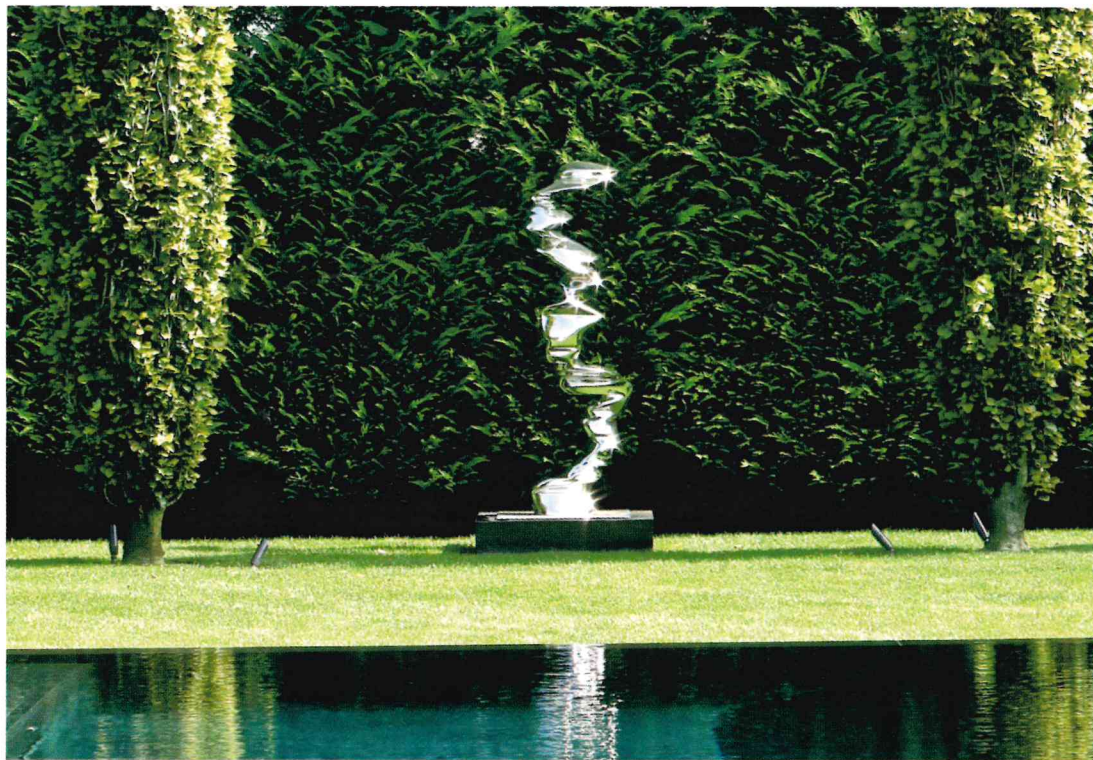
**TONY PIAZZA:** I work for and with a lot of local artists and collectors and really like two sculptors in particular, Bryan Hunt and Toni Ross, whose work I'm always trying to place in gardens. Placement is so personal, for both the client and the artist. I don't go into the design process with preconceived ideas about art.

**QUINCY HAMMOND:** I like to design around a sculpture. I have clients with a Maillol and was able to create a garden just for it, focusing on their favorite aspect: the rear view! We put a bench and an arbor behind it so that the rear view could be on display.



TOP: LAUREN COLEMAN; BOTTOM: QUINCY HAMMOND

“The placement of a sculpture is so personal, for both the client and the artist”



**Are there public gardens with sculpture that you appreciate?**

**QH:** I recently visited the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena. Nancy Goslee Power designed the sculpture garden there, and the way the sculptures interact with the plantings is astonishing. A reclining lead Maillol with a blue tone was placed with Deodar cedars wrapping around it. I thought it was the perfect setting.

**How do you keep a sculpture from overwhelming a landscape?**

**IAN HANBACH:** Often you can put something like a Henry Moore on the front lawn and just let it be. You might really only see it when you are driving into a property, yet it can be as impactful as a piece in a museum, while not overpowering.

In designing a garden for art, we don't want to compete with it, so we're always stripping things away in order to let the sculpture shine. For instance, we wouldn't place a sculpture in a parterre garden. And in general, I think it's too precious to put a sculpture on an axis. In Bridgehampton, we worked on a project with Maya Lin



**Well Put** (CLOCKWISE FROM NEAR LEFT) Deodar cedars frame Maillol's *L'Aire* at the Norton Simon Museum. Two works by Tony Cragg and a sculpture by Ju Ming in a trio of LaGuardia Design Group projects. A detail from George Segal's *Three Figures and Four Benches* (1979).

that was essentially a piece of land art integrated into the grounds. Ultimately, our job was about facilitating her vision for it.

**MD:** On one property, we installed a 30-foot-tall sculpture shaped like a tree with a boulder in it. Fortunately, our client was smart enough to put it in a discreet spot. What could have looked out of place in a prominent position is now enhanced by its rather mystical backdrop of a grove of poplars that you can actually hear. They're like quaking aspens. —*Alejandro Saralegui*

HC&G'S  
2018 GARDEN  
EXPERTS PANEL

**Michael Derrig**  
landscape architect,  
Landscape Details

**Quincy Hammond**  
landscape architect,  
Quincy Hammond  
Landscape Architecture

**Ian Hanbach**  
landscape architect,  
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Group

**Tony Piazza**  
garden designer, Piazza  
Horticultural Group