



Posted on: Sunday, November 17, 2002

ART REVIEW

Vermont artist brings global vision to local campus

By Victoria Gail-White
Advertiser Art Reviewer

In a world that can sometimes appear myopic and narcissistic, the 7 1/2-foot steel sculpture "All One" by Kate Pond is a welcome respite. As an artist in residence at Kapi'olani Community College, Vermont-based Pond is here to install her creation on a grassy knoll near the Diamond Head entrance to the campus.

In "All One," the clean-line, minimalist shape of two pieces of steel — forming both the Chinese and Japanese character for person or humankind — support each other. In their effort to bring together art, science, nature, culture and ecology, Pond's sculptures have evolved since her last show here in the early 1980s.

This sculpture is the fourth in the World Sculpture Project series she has been installing around the world, primarily on a volunteer basis, since 1993. All mark the passing of the sun at the summer and winter solstices, or equinoxes, and incorporate shadows cast by the sun in their design. Financing for her projects has come from grants and patrons.

"I am interested in the universal things that tie people together, and the sun is such a basic tie," Pond says.

Her other works in this series have been placed in Stanstead, Quebec; Oslo, Norway; and Sendai, Japan. A sculptor since her youth, Pond says "I grew up in the country on a farm. There were so many opportunities to find objects, make things, and put things together." She graduated from Skidmore College and studied in Paris before beginning to sculpt full time in the early 1970s.

The Associated Students of Kapi'olani Community College underwrote Pond's project, with guidance from Art Advisory Committee co-chairmen Michael Malloy and Sarah McCormick. This is the first time the students have financed a project of this type. And it is fitting, too, because "All One" communicates a positive statement about youth. Every sculpture includes a time capsule that will be buried nearby with postcard-size artwork and poems composed by children from around the world. Their creative energy, good intentions and concerns will be put into the earth and opened with the other capsules in 2015.

"It is important to instill a positive connection, with all the negative connections that people have in a military way around the globe now," says Pond. "It seems so useless in terms of human energy. I like to encourage a positive connection through art."

The final piece of this series is being planned for New Zealand. It will concentrate on the "Lahaina Noon" phenomenon that occurs near the equator. "This happens in late May, early June, when the sun is directly overhead," Pond says. "It will be the only sculpture that is showing the overhead sun. A person's shadow doesn't show at all."

It is obvious that the sculpture on O'ahu has found a good home. While viewing how well the students had fixed the steel to the concrete base, we noticed that a large grasshopper already had claimed it.

The public is invited to attend the celebration for the dedication of "All One," which will coincide with the heliacal rising of the Pleiades star cluster and the beginning of the ancient Hawaiian Makahiki festival. The open reception is 1:30 p.m. Monday at Lama Library on the Kapi'olani Community College campus. The sculpture dedication will be 1 to 2 p.m. Friday at the entrance to campus opposite the Diamond Head Theatre.

Pond's work, and more information about her World Sculpture Project, may be studied at www.vermontsculpture.com.