

Laudation Jupiter Artland

Ed Bennis, Manchester

Jupiter Artland

Jupiter Artland is the winner in "Innovative contemporary concept or design of a park or garden". This is a garden beyond display and just being 'cool'; it is a garden with a freshness and integrity by Robert and Nicky Wilson. They have shown us that new ideas can work within the historic environment, not as restoration, but as place that recognises that the garden as a place that can change and develop with successive generations. New ideas are brought to life; some will grow and develop so that future generations will look to conserving them; others will disappear and remain as remnants on the landscape, or as pieces of paper in an obscure archive collection. We cannot predict the long term future, but the Wilsons have added a new layer and dynamism to the landscape.

All of the finalists, as well as the nominated gardens, are worthy of recognition, and I have no doubt that these gardens will flourish and be recognised for their greatness. This award demonstrates that contemporary gardens have great value in terms of our cultural heritage and that the issues faced are transnational. However, EGHN requires that only one in each category can receive an award and as such it is Jupiter Artland. I am wary of calling it a sculpture park, because it is only partly that.

Since 2009, Robert and Nicky Wilson have turned Bonnington House, their 17th century house and estate near Edinburgh, into a garden with sculptures; but, it is also a place where the garden itself is a sculpture. This reflects the very best traditions of the 18th century English landscape which was as much an art form as well as a sculpture. And, it has been said that the greatest single contribution to art is the garden and Jupiter Artland continues with this tradition. My apologies for bringing the English into the Scottish landscape!

Jupiter Artland covers 32 hectares with site commissioned works by Anthony Gormley, Anish Kapoor, Marc Quinn, Andy Goldsworthy as well as others. Ian Hamilton Finlay's garden 'Little Sparta', about 50 kilometres away, was a strong influence in developing Jupiter Artland and he has more work here than any other artist.

Charles Jenks has developed his reputation by using sculpted earth forms and in fact his is the largest sculpture here at nearly two hectares in size. Jupiter Artland is timely and well placed. It brings to the public into touch with art, nature and the garden. It has proved so popular with the public that numbers are limited to 100 visitors a day. This conserves the landscape, but it allows the visitor to see and contemplate the landscape and sculptures.

There are many sculpture parks, and gardens with sculptures, such as here at Schoss Dyck, the Kroller-Muller Museum in Holland, Louisiana in Denmark, or at a smaller scale the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Each of these has their own character; the urbane style of MoMA, the sense of changing times and tastes in Holland, the contemporary mix of garden and sculpture at Schloss Dyck. But what makes Jupiter Artland different? It is always difficult to describe abstract feelings and responses, but there is a poetry and magic that you will find here. It is a garden of discovery. I think you will have to go, see and discover for yourself, but also hear the words of Nicky Wilson "Because we are not into 'sculpture parks' and because Jupiter is the god of creativity, parties and fun. We are on the side of Jupiter"[i]

[i] Wade, Mike *The Times* Jupiter Artland: garden that's home to works by world's finest artists; 16 May 2009