DEDICATION
The Gardens Conservancy gratefully dedicates this Guide to the vision of Ann Weaver Norton. The unique educational opportunities offered by the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens have inspired many thousands of nature lovers, art enthusiasts, environmentalists, families and students. We thank you for embracing the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens for the generations yet to experience its magic and beauty.

“...the cracks in the wood, the knots and the gnarls. I like my work to flaw together with nature.”

Ann Weaver Norton, 1905-1982

SCULPTURES IN THE GARDENS

Untitled Horizontal Sculpture, 1979
Handmade Mexican Brick
Height 48 feet
This enigmatic sculpture with its undulating profile—which seems to Bridge upward and outward due to unseen, internal pressures—was the last sculpture whose construction was supervised by Ann Norton. Its silhouette may recall that of the Himalayas, seen by the artist on her trips to India and Nepal.

Seven Beings, completed 1965
Pink Norwegian Granite
Height 15 feet, length 27 feet
These colossal sculptures evoke the sandstone formations Ann Norton observed in Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah, where she “saw thousands of Figures in the rock.” Many visitors are reminded of Moai—the monolithic human figures carved many hundreds of years ago by the Rapa Nui people of Easter Island, in eastern Polynesia. While the figures are neither obviously male or female, most of their faces resemble those of Mayan women.

Gateway 3, 1974
Handmade North Carolina Brick
Height 27 feet
Pierced with evocative openings, this sculpture has been characterized as “the cavity of a medieval tower rising over a submerged portal!” A gateway is sometimes referred to as a “portal to eternity.” Restoration courtesy of the Gochman Family.

Gateway 4, 1975
Handmade North Carolina Brick
Height 24 feet
The apertures seem to recall characters in the alphabet of Sanskrit, known as “the mother of all languages.” It is widely used in the ancient cultures and religions of the Himalayan countries, especially India and Nepal, which Ann Norton visited several times. Many drawings and watercolors testify to her fascination with Sanskrit.

Gateway 5, 1977
Handmade North Carolina Brick
Height 30 feet
This massive tower recalls 20th-century architectural masterpieces such as Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater (1936-1939), in southwestern Pennsylvania, with its remarkable cantilevered balconies. The apertures, however, evoke the porthole-like windows favored by the English architect Nicholas Hawksmoor (1661-1736).

Artist Studio, Built in 1948

GUIDE TO THE GARDENS

“...the pathway to knowledge is narrow indeed. Yes, there was a strong affinity, much more than I expected, between the palms and the sculptures. ... It is the bold and noble simplicity of design that gives the palms their grace and their majesty. It is the same boldness that gives Ann’s complex sculptures their beauty and their nobility.”

Sir Peter Smithers, 1913-2006
Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens Landscape Architect
The primary difference between cycads and palms is their method of pollination. Cycads reproduce by pollen, cones and naked seeds, and palms reproduce with flowers and fruits.