

# Pottery and Sculpture

## Beauty is the Primary Purpose of the Garden

Gardens are a celebration of the beauty of nature as well as the beauty created by man as expressed in the garden design. Art belongs in gardens. Cities commission artists for public works--building codes require art in downtown Seattle. Art also belongs in private gardens, both in the front and back yards, beautifying the environment, providing connection, inspiration, and expression. The garden is a natural gallery; art is more than a picture in a museum.

## Choosing a sculpture

Tower Perennial Gardens has work by renowned artist David Govedare (ponies in the gorge, runners downtown, feathers in CDA, etc.) Should you purchase or commission a piece (many price ranges available, depending on size, complexity) the garden may require some modification to show the piece to its best potential.

A new garden may easily be constructed with a piece in mind. Most important is to match the feel of the architecture, the interior decorating, and the garden style. We can easily get the formal concrete sculptures such as Rebecca at the Well that are familiar; a piece that will usually look wonderful among formal boxwood, but out of place in a rugged rock garden. Sculpture should match its ecology.

## Placing a sculpture

Placing a piece requires that it be visible from the desired angles, that it have adequate light (consider also lights at night), that the foreground will not grow to block it, and that the background does not distract from the presentation. Most pieces look best on some kind of elevation--a dais, a pedestal, whatever.

David Govedare is a great artist, but also a great engineer when it comes to securing and anchoring the piece. They take weather and human contact very well, and safety is also enhanced. The proper installation is important, since a steel sculpture can weigh in excess of 500 lbs, sometimes much more.

## Choosing pottery

We sell over 400 pots to every one sculpture, but the pottery is also artwork. Less expensive than a large sculpture, but a fine large piece is still a durable, colorful and attractive piece of hand made art that enhances the garden 12 months (our pottery may be outdoors all winter). We have bright colors such as cobalt blue and oxblood red, perfect for some tastes and gardens. We encourage you to consider the rustic glazes in green, butternut and blue tones, since the more subdued hues, the more complex glazes of the rustics...these are timeless and over the years it is our experience that gardeners do not tire of them.

We have a great deal of experience placing pottery in gardens, and we are willing to assist in that process. We can work from photos or in larger projects with a pottery budget, we can go on site. Remember, not every pot has to be planted. Some function perfectly well as art without plants.



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## Sculpture

Tower Perennial Gardens offers fine art (currently with a Govedare piece of exceptional value with an asking price of \$30,000). The same artist will commission pieces with a price as low as \$100 to \$200, such as a carved rock. Small figural pieces begin around \$500 if size is adequate to be seen in a garden. Impressive and large pieces are surprisingly affordable as well, \$1000 to \$3000. So, don't assume it is impossible--art is not always priced like it is in Santa Fe.

## Pottery

Pots range from very small to very large, so the price range is dramatic. We have pottery under \$10 and pots for a bit over \$1000. Most garden pottery falls into the \$100 to \$500 range. Most small pots for the deck or front step run from \$30 to \$150. It is important to choose pots in scale for the location, and when placing a container in a garden, it will be surrounded by foliage. The pot must be large enough to show, to be in scale. That is why larger (more expensive) pots tend to be useful when placed in the garden. A pot that looks huge in a sales area will look right in scale when placed into a garden location--our experience can help.

## Favorites

Our selection is extensive, but here are a few favorites. Note, we have a separate handout on using pottery for fountains.

**Jars:** These are spectacular pieces that do not require planting. The small opening in a pot (pot tapers to a small top opening) tends to make plants unnecessary. Try a light inside the pot, or some bamboo poles if you wish.

**Troughs:** Pottery troughs are perfect for dwarf plants and alpines, and very functional. The rustic glazes compliment the plants natural rugged setting.

**Specialty shapes:** Beehive pots (ribbed laterally), containers with large steel rings, tall narrow pots, planted large saucers, large oval pots....all these and more provide interest and a special touch to the garden. A special shape combined with a stunning glaze, well that's hard to beat.

**Courtyard pots:** These are the main workhorses, the standard shaped pots we use for container gardening, available from small to huge sizes (ornamental trees can fit well in the largest sizes). Big color range. Also, available in sets of graduated sizes, which look wonderful in groupings together.