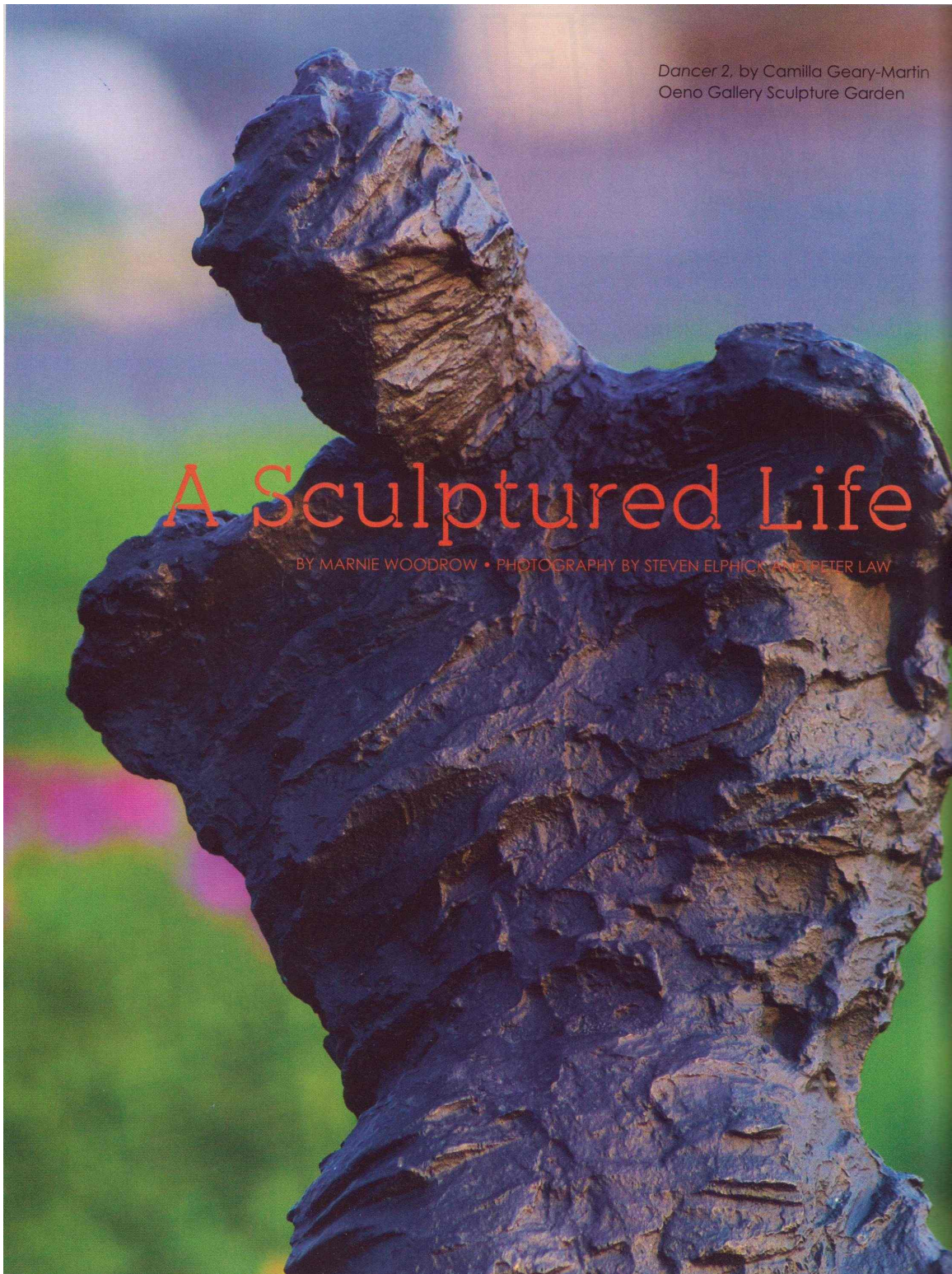


Dancer #2, on Cover of Grapevine, Fall 2011



*Dancer 2, by Camilla Geary-Martin
Oeno Gallery Sculpture Garden*

A Sculptured Life

BY MARNIE WOODROW • PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEVEN ELPHICK AND PETER LAW

Sculpture has a rich legacy in Ontario. It is so ubiquitous that we may take for granted the presence of the works of such world-famous artists as Frances Loring, Eleanor Wyle, Manfred, Joe Rosenthal and others. Their creations grace such landmarks as the entrance to the QEW, the grounds of Parliament Hill and the start point of runner Terry Fox's quest in Thunder Bay. Henry Moore's gigantic figures double as lunchtime benches—and sometimes as playground equipment for kids—outside the AGO in Toronto. Sculpture, whether commemorative, structural or whimsical, takes its place easily among us, in steel, limestone, bronze and granite.

The outdoor sculpture garden offers special pleasures, and the province boasts several such oases: the Toronto Sculpture Garden, the Cambridge Sculpture Garden and the Odette Sculpture Park in Windsor, to name but a very few. To this list we can add the stunning sculpture garden at Prince Edward County's Oeno Gallery, which made its official debut this past summer. The difference between public sculpture gardens and sculptures found in indoor gallery settings is a greater sense of accessibility. There's no austerity, seldom an entry fee; only the weather of the day and the wide variety of creations literally within reach. Although not all sculptures in a garden setting are meant to be touched, there's certainly a feeling that if they can weather the elements of four seasons in Ontario, they can handle occasional tactile exploration from a parent-supervised child.

The Sculpture Garden at Huff Estates, as the Oeno Gallery calls its latest expansion, features a range of Canadian and international sculptors working in a variety of

steels, Belfast Black granite and bronze. The call for artist submissions makes clear that sculptures must be technically sound and conscious of the all-ages visitor population as well as weather-tolerant—the Oeno Gallery and Huff Estates Winery are open year-round. With over 30,000 people visiting annually, the presence of an additional avenue of discovery and exploration beyond wine is a perfect pairing. And unlike the works shown in other sculpture gardens, these pieces are definitely for sale.

The garden itself is a creation that embraces the artworks. The result of an exciting collaboration between Scott Wentworth and Drew MacCandlish it's a feast for the eyes for fans of both art and horticulture. With walking paths, a meadow, groves and hills, it's a spot for quiet contemplation as well as the appreciation of great art. With its use of materials from local surroundings (sand, limestone, indigenous trees and grasses), the sense of integration between art and nature is notable.

Celebrated Prince Edward County sculptor Frank de la Roche favours Oeno Gallery as one of his favourite destinations when free time allows. In summertime, such moments of leisure are at a premium for the owner, operator and main exhibitor at La De Dah Studio Gallery in Waupoos, Ontario. When the handsome and affable de la Roche arrived in Prince Edward County from Quebec in 1997, he was struck by the warm embrace of local artists. Having left behind a tight community and beautiful studio in Oka, he wasn't sure what to expect when his fraternal twin insisted they settle in The County. His concerns faded quickly when he attended his first Art in the County exhibit and met Paulette Greer of Sidestreet Gallery, who



Ladies Size 8, Ruth Abernet
Oeno Gallery Sculpture Garden



Tangle Wood, Shayne Dark
Oeno Gallery Sculpture Garden



The Planters, Victor Cicans
Oeno Gallery Sculpture Garden



Detail of Ladies Size 8, Ruth Abernet
Oeno Gallery Sculpture Garden