



### Volunteers of the Month Robert Holmes and Jerry Erickson

Two outstanding sculptors, Robert Holmes and Jerry Erickson, share the honors this month as they work together so seamlessly. Above they are shown, Robert on the left and Jerry to the right, and Jim Grenwelge in the middle, carrying part of Holmes's entry into this year's Art in the Redwoods into the foyer. The work consists of two semi-abstract figures in the work-in-progress stage. These over nine feet tall personages are first made in Styrofoam before being cast in bronze in the foundry Holmes established and still maintains in Sebastopol.



In 1981, Robert Holmes retired from his very successful contracting business in Phoenix when he and his wife, Edith, moved to Sea Ranch. Here he could pursue his

sculpting passion exclusively. Encouraged by the Los Angeles gallery owner and world renowned art critic, Charles Feingarten, the man best known for bringing the sculptures of Rodin to America, Holmes began to realize the large sculpture figures that had earlier only been in his drawings. Three of these sculptures, two in aluminum and one in bronze, can be seen in permanent display in the gardens outside the arts center. Here the sleek, contemporary geometries of modern architecture and art become imbued with warmth and spirit in nature. Intriguingly familiar, yet mysteriously unfamiliar, all of Holmes sculptures invite the viewer to accept and then explore new relationships of light and space.

In addition to having a show of their works two years ago in the Burnett Gallery, the two artists have always been very active, as well as influential, in defining the important role sculpture maintains in Art in the Redwoods and in the homes on The Sea Ranch that have their original works.

Jerry Erickson, a North Bay sculptor and teacher, moved from Davis to Sea Ranch in 1980 to continue his work with metal and wood. In 1988 Jerry's consumable sculptures were featured in *Life Times Magazine: Forum for a New Age* in an interview with another Sea Rancher, Marsha Sinetar. The idea for "Consumable Sculpture" came about when a large tree on Jerry's Sea Ranch lot blew down in a storm. After cutting it up for firewood, he got the idea to make his woodpile into a sculptured fence. His creation so delighted his neighbors that he was commissioned to make sculptures from their woodpiles. This culminated in the huge, ninety-five foot long stacked wood fence Erickson made for Sea Ranch Lodge.

When Erickson was selected to create a sculpture of an 1847 Farthington Bicycle for presentation to the Former First Lady, Rosalynn Carter, upon her visit to U.C. Davis, Jerry's bronze sculpture ended up in the Smithsonian Museum. Erickson continues to make large and small sculptures in what he calls "open forms" in sheet bronze and stainless steel that are exhibited throughout California. In 2005 Erickson was one of the 40 artists and designers invited to show at the U.C. Davis exhibit to benefit the new Design Museum.



From the inspiration of their work as well as the expertise and hands-on efforts, during the installation of large sculpture exhibits in shows at Gualala Arts, Erickson and Holmes have had a huge impact on the level and degree of fine art in our community. Our thanks to both of them.