

This sculpture, “Martha’s Vineyard”, permanently installed on a hill overlooking 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, is designed to function as a beacon, visible from the street, to mark the entrance to the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Winery near St. Catherines, Ontario.

I designed “Martha’s Vineyard” to be dynamic in space and to be experienced as a fully three-dimensional sculpture which reveals very different perspectives as the viewer moves around the piece. Many features of the sculpture are not even seen until the viewer has come up the driveway to enter the grounds of the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Winery.

The important role that color plays in “Martha’s Vineyard” derives from my paintings. I want the intense color to create a bold and exciting presence in the landscape that surrounds the winery. The geometric shapes and bright colors in the sculpture contrast with the natural textures and forms in which the sculpture is situated.

Even though this sculpture is made of steel and is firmly rooted in the ground, I want the elements of the sculpture to feel almost weightless and to float in the air above the viewer. Images in my paintings frequently have this floating quality. Much of the “action” of the sculpture happens above the heads of the audience. The stones that form the base of the sculpture act as a visual weight that adds stability to the sculpture as the top flies free.

This sculpture is named in honor of my wife, Martha Ladly. The name also recognizes the location of the sculpture in the Niagara grape growing region. Of course the name also has a slightly humorous connection to the famous island off of Cape Cod.

Dan Solomon

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