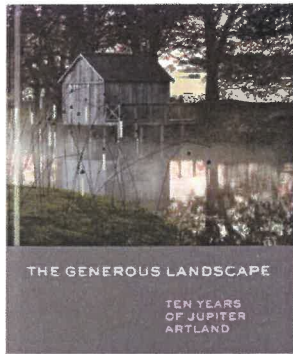


BOOK REVIEWS

— MAY 2019



THE GENEROUS LANDSCAPE; TEN YEARS OF JUPITER ARTLAND

Jupiter Artland
Foundation, £35
ISBN 978-0995783010

A celebration of the first ten years of the Scottish sculpture park Jupiter Artland, and its 36 permanent works by contemporary artists.

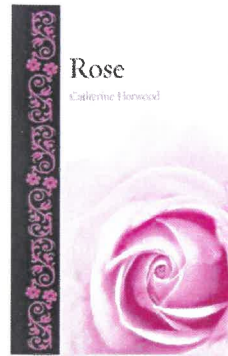
Reviewer Annie Gatti is a freelance garden writer.

As the title suggests, this large-format book chronicles the first ten years of the Scottish sculpture park surrounding Bonnington House, the Jacobean home to art patrons Nicky and Robert Wilson. It features an eclectic collection of 36 permanent works by contemporary artists and the 30-plus exhibitions and temporary pieces from the past ten years. But the book is more than a catalogue of this personal selection of artworks. Through essays, commentaries and the participating artists' own words it explores the ethos of this remarkable enterprise where artists are given the freedom to experiment and take risks, supported and encouraged by the Wilsons. This collaborative process has drawn many of the most important names in contemporary art, including Phyllida Barlow, Andy Goldsworthy, Antony Gormley, Charles Jencks, Anish Kapoor,

Cornelia Parker and Marc Quinn, to create site-specific pieces here.

The permanent works vary in scale, from Jencks's vast landform at the entrance to the park and Quinn's 12m-high bouquet of orchids to Alec Finlay's cabinet of herbal remedies. Most relate to, or play with, the immediate or distant landscape and while there is no substitute for discovering each piece by a visit to the park, the luminous photographs, the majority taken by Allan Pollok-Morris, from different angles and in different seasons, evoke the power of these arresting pieces. When the photography also elucidates the text the result is revelatory.

The book ends with an essay on its educational programme which invites children and students to explore the artworks in an immersive way. It's a resounding endorsement of this remarkable sculpture park.



ROSE by Catherine Horwood

Reaktion Books, £16
ISBN 978-1789140132

A clearly written, information-packed review of the historical, religious, cultural and artistic significance of the world's favourite flower.

Reviewer John Hoyland is a plantsman and writer.

Catherine Horwood writes that before she started working on this book, she thought she knew something about roses but in writing it she discovered a great deal more. The same is true for the reader. You will pick up this book wondering what else there could possibly be to know about roses only to be captivated by a tapestry of deftly woven stories of the plants' botanic, literary, cultural and artistic influence that I, at least, discovered for the first time.

Like other books in this series, this is not a practical, how-to-grow-roses kind of book, although there is a short but intriguing recipe section (rose vodka, anyone?) and an appendix that succinctly explains the terminology of rose groups that are used in nursery catalogues. What you get instead is the significance of the rose in literature, from Sappho to Ali Smith, in opera, in dance, and in art and

decoration. The book describes images of the rose from 13th-century stained glass windows to the photographic studies of Robert Mapplethorpe.

In a couple of fascinating chapters, Horwood traces the development of the rose as a garden plant from the end of the 18th century, a period she refers to as being the birth of the modern rose, to contemporary rose breeders. Along the way she sketches the stories of the personalities, from the Empress Josephine to David Austin, who have been influential in popularising roses and rose growing.

More than any other plant, roses are deeply embedded in European, Arabic and Asian religions and cultures and the book manages, in a succinct and engaging manner, to illuminate the breadth of the plant's influence. For gardeners who love roses this is a fascinating and enlightening book.