

ART in the Gardens

Airlie GARDENS

Minnie Evans Sculpture Garden

Unveiled in 2004, this tribute garden honors visionary artist & long time Airlie Gardens' employee, Minnie Evans. From 1916-1974, Minnie worked under both the Jones & the Corbett families. It is believed that Minnie had dreams and visions of encounters with angels dating back to her childhood. This led to her becoming a visual artist, claiming an angel came to her at the age of 43 and asked, "Why don't you paint, or die?". Over the years she created many of her works from the Airlie ticket booth, where she worked for 26 years. Her work is known for its bright colors and exotic plants, with eyes and faces

emerging from the foliage. She was inspired by her dreams and visions, as well as, by the gardens and possibly oriental rugs & artwork in the Jones' home. Her work can now be found in art galleries all around the world.



Artists:

- The Minnie Evans Bottle Chapel - Virginia Wright Frierson
- Copper tree - Karen Crouch
- Copper birds on tree - Michael Van Hout
- Metal Angels & Bottle Chapel Gate - Dumay Gorham
- Ceramic Mosaics & Stained-glass portrait of Minnie Evans - Brooks Koff
- The Gatehouse in the Garden Sculpture & Ceramic Fountain - Hiroshi Sueyoshi
- Triangular benches - Tejoula Turner



The Beast (*located inside the main gate along the entrance road*)

Inspired by the art of Minnie Evans. Based on the creature Minnie Evans called her “funny green animal”. The sculpture is elaborated with swirl shapes, eyes, horns and leaf forms that are present throughout her work. *Karen Crouch*



Azalea (*located in the Presidents’ Garden along Bradley Creek*)

A stainless steel Azalea flower sculpture sitting 6 feet wide & 6 feet tall. The sculpture was heated with a torch to bring out its vibrant colors that include cobalt blue, burnished bronze and coal black. *Gary Caldwell & Holly Felice*



Butterfly Mobile (*located inside Airlie’s Butterfly House*)

A kaleidoscope of metal butterfly sculptures suspended from the roof of the Airlie Butterfly House. The sculpture is made of stainless steel heated with a torch to bring out its vibrant colors. *Gary Caldwell*



Imagine Whimsy II and III (*located inside Butterfly House*)

Each bloom of these botanical sculptures were sculpted and finished independently before being threaded onto stem configurations. Using recycled, salvaged and up-cycled raw materials, Matthew is known for his whimsical creations and use of vibrant colors. *Matthew Leavell*



Butterfly Arch

A kaleidoscope of metal butterflies constructed into an arch. This sculpture is made of stainless steel which was heated with a torch to bring out its vibrant colors. *Gary Caldwell*



Butterfly Frog (*located in Tranquility Gardens*)

& Earl the Frog (*located at Pergola Garden tram stop*)

Large copper personified frog sculptures with butterfly net and newspaper. Early the Frog was donated in memory of Rhoda & Earl Brown. *Andy Cobb*



Busts of Pan & Bronze Deer (*located in Pergola Garden*)

Two, 3-ft tall bronze deer sculptures originally owned by the Corbett family & donated to Airlie. Busts of Pan were also added to the Gardens by the Corbetts & several appear by the fountain. *Unknown*



Airlie Front Gate (*located at Entrance*)

Originally constructed in France in the late 1700s-early 1800s & installed at the entrance to Airlie in 1920. A full restoration was done in 2014. *Unknown, Restored by Ben Kaster*