

**Karen Giusti,**

White House/Greenhouse, 1996
New York, New York

From July 4th through Election Day of 1996, the Bowling Green area of Battery Park was taken over by a project by New York artist Karen Giusti. *White House/Greenhouse* was commissioned by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. Giusti chose this site for its dramatic backdrops—Wall Street and the *Statue of Liberty*. According to Giusti, the work represents the intricate relationship of money, politics, and the environment.

Giusti constructed *White House/Greenhouse* out of recycled steel beams, clear vinyl, and Plexiglas. The artist painted the facade of the White House on the front wall of the structure and a dollar bill on the background wall. To produce the wall designs, the images were projected onto the clear vinyl tarps which Giusti and her assistants then painted.

In order for both images to be equal in size, the image of the dollar had to be “stretched.” According to Giusti, this stretching was apropos of the project’s budget, which was

Left: Robert Sindorf, *Middle Path*, 1996. Granite, 14 x 3 ft. Above, right: Karen Giusti, *White House/Greenhouse* (two views), 1996. Recycled steel beams, vinyl, Plexiglas, and rose bushes, 40 x 15 x 14 ft.



met by donations of time, money, and materials.

The structure was a fully-functioning greenhouse, housing 200 rose bushes. The names of the rose varieties followed a presidential theme with names like JFK, Mr. Lincoln, and American Pride. The structure also hosted volunteers who distributed voter registration information written in Chinese, English, and Spanish to millions of visitors who passed the site on their way to and from the *Statue of Liberty* every day.

—Amy Blankstein

Information on recently completed commissions, along with quality 35mm slides or transparencies and an SASE, should be sent to: Commissions, Sculpture, 1250 17th Street NW, Suite 250, Washington, DC 20036.