

8. Slide Rock by David Stromeyer (b. 1946)

This sculpture crafted in 1978 by David Stromeyer, was given by Mrs. Margaret Burden in 1988. As exemplified by this piece, Stromeyer uses materials ranging from steel to concrete to feathers. He draws inspiration from The Enchanted Rock, an enormous pink granite pluton formation in the Llano Uplift, Fredericksburg, TX. This formation has dramatic color and huge mass compared to its relatively level surrounding area. The aspects of size, color, massing, and perspective are fundamental concerns to his sculpture. Other pieces can be seen at the Herbert Johnson Museum in Ithaca, NY; Strathmore Music Hall, Bethesda, MD; and National Building Museum, Washington, DC.



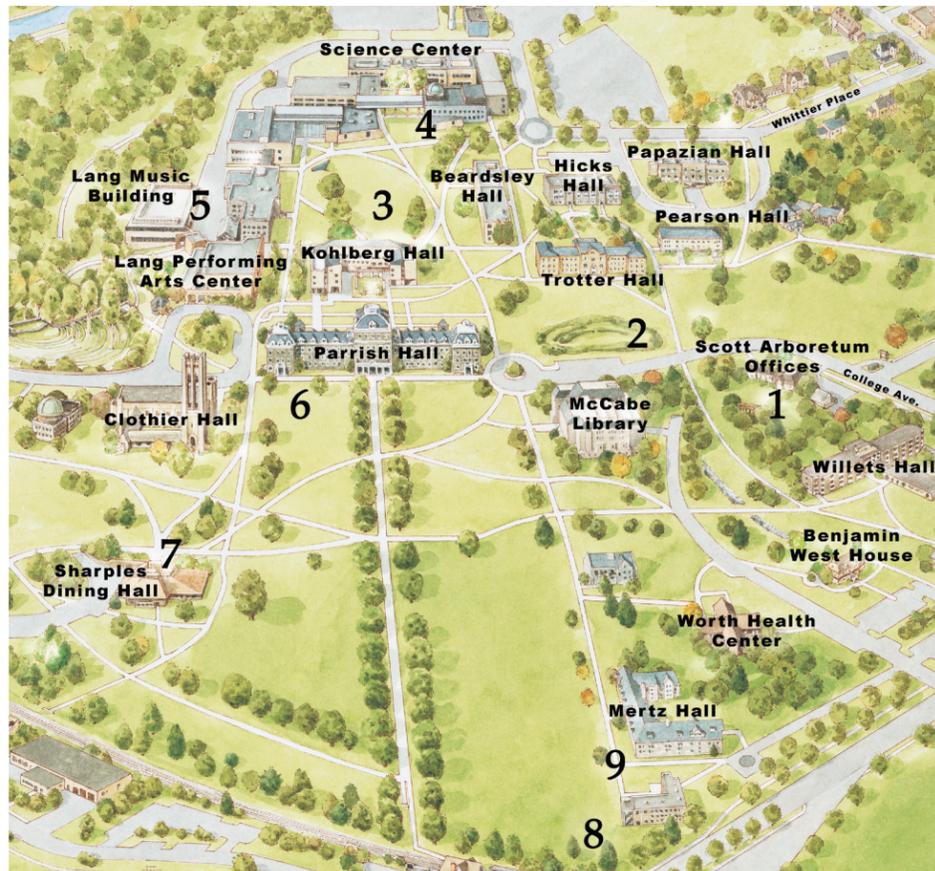
9. Red Steelroot by Steve Tobin (b. 1957)

“When you walk away from the (Steel)roots and go on with your life, hopefully the next time you look at a tree, your mind will travel underground and see things not readily apparent,” Steve Tobin stated while describing his inspiration for the series. “We all have roots. We all have histories. We all have mysteries below the surface.” His work has been showcased at the Page Museum at the LaBrea Tar Pits, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the American Museum of Natural History in New York, in the caves at Rettreti Art Museum in Finland, and in numerous sculpture parks, fine art museums, and public sites around the world. Fourteen sculptures of the Steelroot series were featured in the Conifer Garden at Morton Arboretum, IL in 2010. An exhibit of this series was installed at Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ in 2011.



Donated anonymously by a member of the Scott Associates in 2010, this sculpture was inspired by tree roots. Tobin received international acclaim in 2004 for his installation of the *Trinity Root* near Ground Zero in New York City. Since that time, he has created multiple sculptures inspired by the roots of trees. *Red Steelroot* was crafted in 2005 in his Pennsylvania studio.

Brochure text by Rebecca Robert; design by Laura Stiebitz; photos by J. Jabco, D. Mattis, R. Maurer, R. Robert, C. Sawyers, L. Stiebitz.



- 1. *Mina* by Lydia Leavitt
- 2. *Alfred's and Josephine's Gate* by Lydia and Greg Leavitt
- 3. *Back from Rio* by Alexander Calder
- 4. *The Urn* by Harry Bertoia
- 5. *Garnet* by Robert Murray
- 6. *Big Chair* by Jack Beckman '04
- 7. *Sappho* by Alekos Kyriakos
- 8. *Slide Rock* by David Stromeyer
- 9. *Red Steelroot* by Steve Tobin

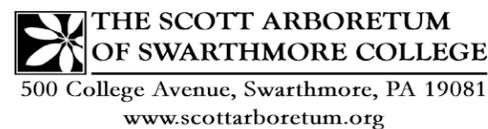
About the Scott Arboretum

The Scott Arboretum is a green oasis uniquely situated on the Swarthmore College campus. Over 300 acres create the College landscape and provide a display of the best ornamental plants recommended for Delaware Valley gardens. Established in 1929 as a living memorial to Arthur Hoyt Scott, Class of 1895, through a gift from his family, the Arboretum continues to thrive today.

There are over 4,000 different kinds of plants grown on the campus, selected for their outstanding ornamental qualities, ease of maintenance, and resistance to disease. Major plant collections include: flowering cherries, hollies, lilacs, magnolias, tree peonies, hydrangeas, conifers, summer flowering shrubs, and witch hazels.

Art in the Garden

THE SCOTT ARBORETUM OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE



Art in the Garden

Sculpture around the Scott Arboretum, the campus of Swarthmore College, ranges from the size of a cat to a small bus; from abstract modernistic pieces to representational functional elements in the landscape; and from classic subjects to ephemeral and whimsical expressions. Gardens are dynamic works of art in themselves and as such they create ever-changing contexts for sculpture. With effective placement and integration, sculpture in a garden enhances our appreciation of both the changing garden and the unchanging character of the sculpture.

Here are brief descriptions of 10 permanent sculpture installations which can be found in locations ranging from the southern end of Parrish lawn to the northern-most building, the Science Center. This self-guided tour invites you to discover and enjoy these diverse sculptures.

1. *Mina* by Lydia Leavitt (b. 1950)

This sculpture was donated by the Associates of the Scott Arboretum to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Associates in 1996. This piece shrouds the practical function of circulating water in the pond with an enchanting statuette and adds the magical sound of trickling water in the garden.



2. *Alfred's Gate* and *Josephine's Gate* by Greg Leavitt (b. 1947) and Lydia Leavitt (b. 1950)

These ornamental gates donated to the Arboretum in 1996 mark the entrance to the Dean Bond Rose Garden. Given by Alfred Muscari in memory of his wife, Josephine, the Leavitts designed Josephine's Gate to represent spring and summer. Stainless steel was used for the frame, rose stems, and lily leaves. The blossoms and rose leaves are made of copper. This represents Josephine's love for horticulture and roses. The opposing gate, *Alfred's Gate*, represents late winter with leaves and twigs inspired by beech trees and emerging grape-hyacinth (*Muscari* sp.) bulbs. Greg Leavitt's studio is located in Boyertown, PA.



3. *Back from Rio* by Alexander Calder (b. 1898 – d. 1976)

Created in 1959 and donated in 1967 by Ruth Cross in honor of her husband, a Swarthmore Professor of Economics, *Back from Rio* was crafted by Alexander Calder. Known for his kinetic sculpture, this piece is a stabile-mobile with rods and vanes suspended and often propelled by gentle breezes. Intended to be viewed from multiple angles, it presents different silhouettes and patterns. Experience the piece from all sides to see the play of balance and counterbalance.



Other well-known kinetic sculptures by Calder include: a suspended mobile in the entry hall of the Philadelphia Museum of Art; .125, a mobile for the New York Port Authority that was hung in Idlewild (now John F. Kennedy) Airport (1957); *El Sol Rojo* (the largest of all Calder's works) installed outside the Aztec Stadium for the Olympic Games in Mexico City; and *La grande vitesse*, the first public art work to be funded by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan (1969).

4. *The Urn* by Harry Bertoia (b. 1915 - d. 1978)

This bronze sculpture was donated to Swarthmore College by Mrs. John S. Schulte in 1977. This piece was crafted by **brashing** molten metal on the ground and selecting this stylized urn from the results. Bertoia artwork can be seen at his studio in Bally, Pennsylvania, where he worked from the 1950s until his death.



5. *Garnet* by Robert Murray (b. 1936)

This sculpture in front of Lang Music Building was given in honor of J. Gordon Lippincott '31 and Edith Bowan Lippincott '32 by their son Donald Lippincott in 1974. Robert Murray is a Canadian sculptor who primarily works with painted metal in twisting, geometric forms. Murray's works often call natural themes to mind through shape, color, and name. His works are often named after people, places, or things in Canada and Alaska. Garnet is also Swarthmore College's school color.



6. *Big Chair* by Jake Beckman '04 (b. 1982)

This beloved interactive sculpture has become an icon for Swarthmore College. Created by Jake Beckman Class of '04, during his time as a student at Swarthmore, it was designed as a temporary piece and installed as a surprise. From the initial unveiling, *Big Chair* was a part of Parrish Lawn for five years. Then in 2009, Beckman reconstructed the piece with more permanent materials. This piece is moved into storage during the winter months.



Beckman, discussing his inspiration for the piece, commented "at the time I was interested in works of 'happenings,' especially Allan Kaprow's work as well as Claus Oldenberg's oversized sculptures. I was inspired by conversations I had with different people, and by friends throwing out ideas and brainstorming. Part of it was also this sort of mysterious place that inspiration comes from. But a lot of the experience was making it, on doing it in secret and pushing it out there in the middle of the night."

7. *Sappho* by Alekos Kyriakos (b. 1937)

Donated to Swarthmore College by Letisse Inc. and Nicholas K. Braun '39 in 1967, *Sappho* was crafted by Alekos Kyriakos. This reclining figure can be seen among daffodils each spring. Kyriakos is a Greek sculptor of note, whose art training was received in Athens prior to his residence in the United States. His works can be found at Franklin and Marshall College (3 works), Albright College, Philadelphia Museum of Fine Art (2), Allentown Art Museum (2), and Kutztown College. "Kyriakos is imbued with the spirit of synthesis and mystery of archaic Greece and draws from these roots statements that are both deeply felt and monumentally convincing" stated Richard Teller Hirsch (*Quarterly*, Auckland City Art Gallery).

