

Artist in Residency Project in Sumter, SC

Accessibility 2003: From the Outside In," Sumter, South Carolina, Sept. 27 - Nov. 1. 2003. Jane's "Making My Bed" installation is still on view and continues to change over time.

Jane was the guest curator and artist-in-residence for Sumter, South Carolina's 5th annual exhibition of site-specific installation art held in downtown Sumter at indoor and outdoor sites. Jane worked as an artist in residence in Sumter for three weeks and involved high school and elementary art students as collaborators in an art project called "Making My Bed." Students designed the squares for the big installation in a city park and also each made individual small beds that were displayed in a storefront window installation in downtown Sumter.

Jane also curated the exhibition, selecting the other 9 artists who are participating in the exhibition--two are from Japan, one from South Korea, one from Canada and one from Israel with the others from CA, NM, KY, and New York. The artists worked in Sumter for several weeks prior to the opening of the exhibition on Sept. 27. Each artist had a local partner in Sumter who acted as host and guide and helped the artists to create their public art installations along Main Street in Sumter. For more information visit the website at www.sumteraccessibility.org

Jane's installation project for Accessibility 2003 "Making My Bed" was created during a three-week artist in residency in Sumter. The site-specific installation is a large-scale outdoor installation in the form of a living growing bed of wildflowers and crocus bulbs. The bed frame is made from willow branches, and four magnolia trees are the bedposts. A yellow jasmine vine (South

Carolina's state flower) has been planted to grow up and over the headboard. The shaped earth bed was covered with a handmade paper quilt created from pulp containing wildflower seeds to produce flowers in the same pattern. The photo on the left shows the bed when it was installed on Sept. 27. The photo on the right shows the bed five weeks later when the paper is dissolving as mulch and the wildflower seedlings are starting to grow. Third grade students from Ms. Jones's art classes at Wilder Elementary and Sumter High School art students of Ms. Adler worked with Jane to create this installation. Students also made their own individual twig and handmade paper beds that were installed in downtown storefront windows for the exhibition. After the exhibition closes, students got their own beds back to plant next Spring in their own yards.

Here are some photos of "Making My Bed" in April 2004 showing the flowers in bloom. The wildflowers seem to be well-established and will keep coming back each year. The magnolia tree bedposts are also growing well along with the flowering vines at the twig headboard. .

An article about Jane's "Making My Bed" project in Sumter and her work with art students in the local high school and an elementary school is in the April 2004 issue of SCHOOL

ARTS magazine.

