



Title: Cattails

Artist: Dave Angle and Diane Relf

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Window weights, rebar and roof flashing reborn into rain garden art

Artist Biography: Diane was born and raised poor in Texas, where she learned young to play with discarded items and appreciate the value of things that most people found useless. A career in academia had demands that derailed her from playing with art. But since retirement several years ago, she has continuously created and recreated her approach to art. Dave was raised in a military family and lived in Germany and Bolivia. His career and creativity have led him from photography to construction. His refuse from construction has often

served as the building blocks for Diane's creative excesses. Married for 38 years they practice their art in between gardening and sailing in Virginia and New Zealand.

Artists Statement

Diane's Statement: First and foremost, art is about having fun by creating something while I enjoy playing with materials. Most of my work is never quite finished as I add to and embellish it as long as I own it. Experimenting with new materials and techniques, solving problems and making things up as I go are essential elements of art for me.

Much of my art is about finding discarded objects and manipulating them to explore their potential; then combining these new objects into statements of appreciation of the mundane. It questions the validity of a throwaway society, the value of always needing new, and the perfection of machinery precision. It celebrates the daily detritus that has lost its meaning and gives it a new opportunity to open eyes and minds.

My art is based on my experience with and love of the natural environment. As such, it is never perfect, incorporating rough edge and unbalanced lines into its symmetry in acknowledgement of the broken beauty of nature. I have long had a love affair with rust and much of my work explores rust's potential in creative expression in many forms: wood and rust sculpture; rust dyed and printed textiles and paper; wearable art; metal masks; altered art tiles; photography; and digital graphic "collages".

Dave's Statement: "Yes, dear. I can do that."