

Art in the Garden: The *Bontei* Tray Gardens of Marc Peter Keane



"I realized somewhere along the way that what I was doing was capturing certain qualities distilled out of gardens — movements, textures or philosophies — and placing them on trays, like offerings, for quiet contemplation. In a garden there is a stillness or a motion, a sense of time or one of timelessness, a certain color, texture...a balance of parts. These are the things I try to capture in my *bontei*."

Marc Peter Keane

November 7-22
Garden Hours
Garden Pavilion
Free with Admission

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The 2009 *Art in the Garden* series continues at the Portland Japanese with a special exhibition of The *Bontei* Tray Gardens of Marc Peter Keane, featuring exquisitely designed, handcrafted wood and stone tray gardens by one of the world's leading experts on Japanese gardens. Keane is the author of *Japanese Garden Design*, one of the most popular books on this topic in the English language. He will be in Portland for the opening weekend of the exhibition on November 7 and 8, during which time he will give talks about his *Bontei* as well as a presentation on Japanese tea gardens in conjunction with the debut of his soon-to-be-released book on this subject.

The Meaning of *Bontei*

In Japanese *bontei* means tray garden. There are many traditions in East Asia of presenting stones and plants on trays or in ceramic pots. In Japan, there are four traditions—*bonsai*, *bonkei*, *bonseki*, and *suiseki*. *Bonsai* (tray-plantings) feature carefully pruned plants; *Bonkei* (tray-scenery) use a combination of pruned plants, stones, and/or sand to create a landscape scene; *Bonseki* (tray stones) do the same with stones and/or fine white sand on a black

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Sponsored by the James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation and The Collins Foundation.

Opening Reception and Gallery Talk

Bontei Tray Gardens

November 7, 4:30pm

Garden Pavilion

\$25 Members/\$35 Non-Members

Reservations required at

www.japanesegarden.com/events

or (503) 542-0280

Meet the artist at an informal reception as he discusses the ideas and inspiration that led him to create his Bontei Tray Gardens.

Lecture and Book Signing

The Japanese Tea Garden

November 8, 4:30pm

Garden Pavilion

\$30 Members/\$40 Non-Members

Reservations required at

www.japanesegarden.com/events

or (503) 542-0280



Keane's *Bontei* exhibition at the Garden coincides with the Fall 2009 release of his latest book, *The Japanese Tea Garden* (Stonebridge Press), in which he describes the history, design, and aesthetics of tea gardens from T'ang China to the present day. With over 100 stunning photographs, floor plans, and illustrations, this is the most extensive book on this genre ever published in English. *The Japanese Tea Garden* is a rich resource for garden lovers, landscape designers, and architects—and anyone who admires the striking aesthetic of the Japanese garden. A book signing with the artist follows the lecture.

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lacquer tray; *Suiseki* (water-stone) are unusually shaped, polished stones that mimic mountain scenes. All of these traditions express the beauty and rhythms of nature in highly abstracted form, capturing the sense of reflection one feels in wild nature in the space of a tray. The word *bontei* is an old term, not found in most modern dictionaries, but it suits Keane's new creations perfectly, as they begin within that tradition but broaden the scope to include new materials and philosophies the way modern gardens do.

The Design of Bontei

The design of *bontei* derives from that of Japanese gardens, especially the arrangements of sand and stones known as *karesansui*, and from the tea gardens, called *roji*.

The overall balance, for instance, often incorporates "empty" space and points of punctuation found in *karesansui*. This emptiness is called "*ma*" in Japanese and can refer to the undeveloped space in a garden, the unpainted portion of an ink landscape painting or a silent period in music.

The aesthetic of *bontei*, their colors, patterns and textures, is that of common materials—stones, rusted metal, wood-fired ceramics—used in a refined way. In Japan, this would be called the *wabi* aesthetic, which is most closely associated with the tea ceremony. As a counterpoint to the rusticity of the *wabi* elements, Keane introduces elements that are precise and highly controlled. This interplay between diametric opposites is also a common theme in the aesthetics of the tea ceremony in which the element of control is called "*shin*" and that of wildness is called "*shō*."

About Marc Peter Keane

Keane is a graduate of Cornell University's department of landscape architecture. He moved to Kyoto, Japan in 1985, first as a research fellow of Kyoto University, later as a landscape architect and writer. His design work consists mostly of gardens: private residences, company grounds, and temple gardens, although he has also designed parks and historic districts. His design work reflects his background, blending Eastern and Western aesthetics and philosophies.



Along with design work, Keane is also an educator. During his years in Japan, he was a lecturer in Department of Environmental Design at the Kyoto University of Arts and Design. He has been a research fellow at both Cornell University and the Research Center for Japanese Garden Art, which runs an annual two-week Japanese Garden Seminar in English. He serves as organizer for the annual seminar as well as one of the core staff. He has also lectured extensively throughout the United States, England, and Japan.

As a writer, Keane's work includes a variety of styles and venues, including *Japanese Garden Design* (which explains Japanese gardens in terms of their cultural background and inherent design), a translation of the *Sakuteiki* (Japan's thousand-year-old gardening treatise), and numerous articles and essays related to Japanese gardens and preservation in Kyoto.

The idea of making tray gardens came a couple years after Keane's return to the US. Based on models and drawings of experimental gardens—things he had been imagining but hadn't found a way to create over the years—he found that his *bontei* designs were often abstract or in some ways more fanciful than the actual gardens he built.

www.japanesegarden.com/events/keane

Free Admission Day

Sponsored by KOIN Local 6
November 11, 10am-4pm
Free and Open to the Public



Everyone is welcome and encouraged to invite their friends, family, and fellow community members to visit the Garden on this Free Admission Day. Garden guides will be stationed throughout the Garden to help answer questions and speak about the Garden's history, culture, and traditions.

As part of our Free Admission Day, we will be taking voluntary donations for the Janus Youth Program, a Portland non-profit which provides two shelters for homeless youths. The shelters provide a safe place to stay for 60 youth each night and are always filled to capacity. The following items are always in high demand:

- socks
- dental floss
- toothbrushes
- small sewing kits
- stocking caps



Visitors will also be able to view for free the Garden's winter *Art in the Garden* Exhibition: The *Bontei* Gardens of Marc Peter Keane. Come enjoy the Garden in all its fall glory!

www.japanesegarden.com/events/free

Torii Mor Winery Open House Special Member Event a Big Success!



L-R: Jacques Tardy, Torii Mor winemaker; Margie Olson, Torii Mor owner; Steve Bloom, Executive Director of Portland Japanese Garden

Torii Mor, the Garden's partner and exclusive winery, opened their doors to a barrel tasting and tour of the vineyard for members of the Garden on September 12. Margie Olson and winemaker Jacques Tardy, greeted over 80 Garden members to Olson Estate Vineyard in the Dundee Hills. Our members got a first-hand view of the wine-making process, tasted a variety of specialty wines, and toured the vineyard. Steve Bloom, Executive Director, and Nicola Sysyn, Director of Strategic Advancement were on hand to welcome our members and everyone enjoyed mingling under the warm September skies.

www.toriiomorwinery.com

Entry to the Portland Classical Chinese Garden



Photo: Dan Kvitko Photography

Free to Portland Japanese Garden Members
November 1-30, 2009
10am-5pm, Daily
NW 3rd & Everett
(503) 228-8131

Portland Japanese Garden (PJG) members are invited to visit the Portland Classical Chinese Garden (PCCG) free of charge during the month of November 2009. In exchange, the PJG opens

its doors free to PCCG members during November as well. This exciting collaboration gives members of both gardens a chance to learn more about these Portland treasures and to see fall transition into winter.

- Each membership card good for two free admissions
- 10% gift store discount valid at both gardens
- Presentation of membership card required at both gardens for entry

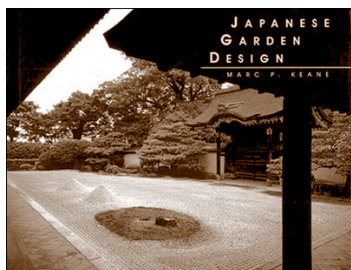
www.portlandchinesegarden.org

In the Garden Gift Store



Marc Peter Keane

We are excited and honored to have Marc Peter Keane here in the Garden with his *Bontei Tray Gardens* exhibition. Mr. Keane is a well-known authority on Japanese culture and has written many books on the subject. Some of our favorites are *Sakuteiki: Visions of the Japanese Garden*, *Japanese Garden Design*,



and *The Art of Setting Stones* – all of which are available in the Garden Gift Store and at shop.japanesegarden.com.

Mr. Keane's lecture coincides with the much-anticipated release of his new book, *The Japanese Tea Garden*, (Stone Bridge Press). There will be a

very limited number of this new book available for purchase the evening of his lecture.

shop.japanesegarden.com

Books aren't the only treasures you'll find in our web store. If you haven't visited lately, we've been adding new merchandise and categories weekly including new Stationery, Seasonal, and Clearance sections. Shop when you want, 24 hours a day, seven days a week and once you've registered as a member you'll get your 10% discount applied to all purchases.

Free Admission Day

We're inviting the community to the Garden on Wednesday, November 11 for a Free Admission Day. We'll have a special table set up outside the store of deeply discounted merchandise, so you'll want to make sure you stop by for the best deals of the season. Select merchandise will be discounted 50-75% and all sales are final. (Sorry, no additional member discounts apply.)

Shop early and save for the holidays

If you're thinking about your holiday shopping list before the rush, our 2010 Garden Calendar is the perfect gift for everyone on your list. Filled with beautiful images of the Garden in all seasons, it's the gift they'll be grateful for all through the year! In the spirit of the holiday season, mention this article anytime before Thanksgiving, November 27 and we'll knock \$3 off of every one you buy. That's just \$12.95 each and if you add in your member discount, you'll be grateful too! This offer is good for Garden members only.



2010 Garden calendar. Buy now and save!

Haiku by Peter Kendall

An October sun
My unshakable shadow
has found its zenith

The autumn garden
Once more, muffled voices
And dampened footsteps

Holiday Show and Opening Night Event

Member Preview

December 4, 5-7pm

Free to Members, Reservations Requested
at events@japanesegarden.com or (503) 542-0280

Join us for a special Member Preview evening and get a head start on your holiday shopping. Enjoy tea and cookies while you find the perfect gift for everyone on your list.

Holiday Show and Sale

December 5-24

Garden Hours

Garden Pavilion

Free with Admission

Save the dates! The Garden's Holiday Show and Sale will be open in the Pavilion from December 5-24 during Garden hours. We'll offer handmade gifts from several local artists, beautiful pre-wrapped tea sets, and so much more. Look for more details in December's Garden Path.

www.japanesegarden.com/events/holiday-show



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Facebook, and MySpace!



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The Portland Japanese Garden designates all memorial gifts to its Foundation in order to support the organization in perpetuity. In addition, the Garden's foundation includes endowment funds created through the generous gifts of our friends. We are proud to acknowledge the following funds:

Jack & Lynne Hoffman Donor Advised Fund

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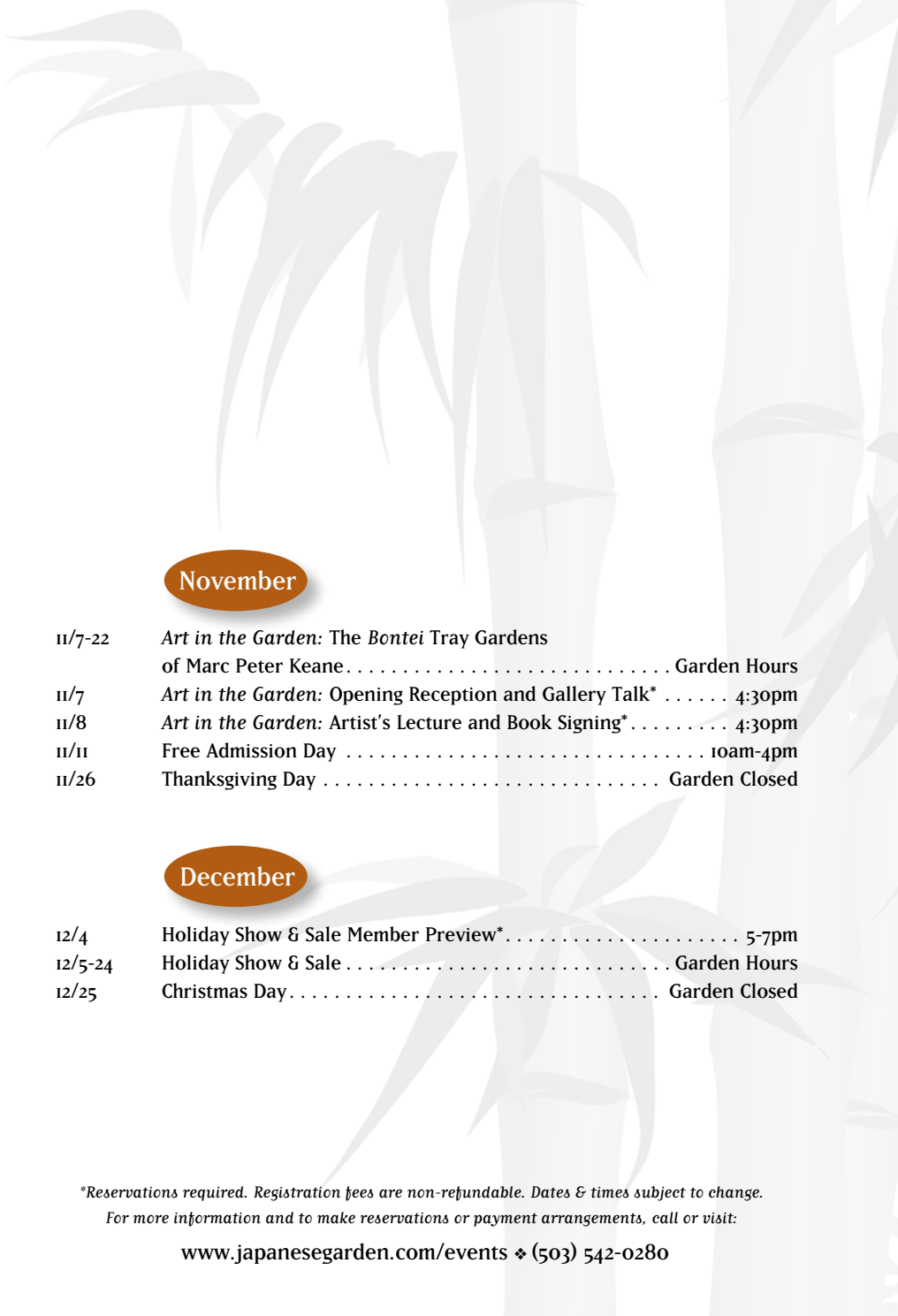
If you are interested in contributing to our endowment, please contact Nicola Sysyn at (503) 595-5225.

Exclusive Vineyard of the
Portland Japanese Garden



www.toriiomorwinery.com

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Tuesday–Sunday: 8-10am

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(October 1–March 31)

Tuesday–Sunday: 10am-4pm

Mondays: Noon-4pm

Winter Public Tours:

Saturdays & Sundays: 1pm

Winter Gift Store Hours:

Tuesday–Sunday: 10am-4pm

Mondays: Noon-4pm

Helpful Numbers:

Main Gate (503) 223-1321

Membership Services (503) 796-9180

Garden Gift Store (503) 223-5055

Event Reservations (503) 542-0280

Physical Address:

611 SW Kingston Avenue

Portland, OR 97205

www.japanesegarden.com

November

- 11/7-22 *Art in the Garden: The Bontei Tray Gardens* of Marc Peter Keane Garden Hours
- 11/7 *Art in the Garden: Opening Reception and Gallery Talk** 4:30pm
- 11/8 *Art in the Garden: Artist's Lecture and Book Signing** 4:30pm
- 11/11 Free Admission Day 10am-4pm
- 11/26 Thanksgiving Day Garden Closed

December

- 12/4 Holiday Show & Sale Member Preview* 5-7pm
- 12/5-24 Holiday Show & Sale Garden Hours
- 12/25 Christmas Day Garden Closed

**Reservations required. Registration fees are non-refundable. Dates & times subject to change.
For more information and to make reservations or payment arrangements, call or visit:*

www.japanesegarden.com/events ♦ (503) 542-0280