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# The New York Times

ART REVIEW

## ART REVIEW; Impressions of the Yard, Visual and Olfactory

By Roberta Smith  
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The medium of sculpture started getting fuzzy around the edges in the early 1960's and has never stopped. It has borrowed from all kinds of adjacent mediums -- including video, ceramics, architecture, design and performance art -- and has at times merged with the environment, whether geological or social.

Socrates Sculpture Park is doing its bit for sculptural fuzziness by including photography, video and even a large-scale derivative of painting in its summer exhibition, titled "Yard." But if message takes precedent over medium, an unusual coherence reigns in the works by 14 artists, selected by Alyson Baker, Socrates's director, and Robyn Donohue, its exhibition coordinator, to explore the emotional, sociological and visual connotations of the show's theme. Yard, not surprisingly, is a highly evocative four-letter word.

...Surrealism is amusingly familiar in works like "Yard," a crisp rectangle of bright green lawn and driveway that tilts inexplicably upward in the air, by **Venske & Spänle**; "Patio Roll," a curling slope of flagstones made of silicone, by Martine Kaczynski; and "Two Pools," by Lisa Hein and Bob Seng. One kidney-shaped pool conflates swimming pool and patio; the other, less clear-cut but funny to look at, floats offshore in the East River, discarded bottles corralled within its clean white loop.