

Creative Corner

A striking circular poem written around a pond inside Glasgow Botanic Garden has caused visitors to stop and reflect for a moment.

The poem, *A Perception of Ferns*, by Gael Turnbull, is itself circular, having no beginning or end. Readers start from where they are and follow it as they wish. It encourages them to look at the fern in the middle of the pool and to notice other elements of the site. The pond is in the entrance to the glasshouse and is a focal point for visitors. It is a striking feature with beautiful reflections of the curved glass roof of the palace.

This is one of several pieces developed by Gerry Loose, writer in residence. He also used horticultural name-plates to surprise visitors by including quotes or very short poems. An inscribed stone next to a newly planted Persimmon carries a two-word poem, 'Flame, Flower', the latin name of Persimmon, and 'Nagasaki'. This raises questions or stops visitors and encourages them to reflect on the planting. The poem does not provide any answers, leaving people to make their own connections. In fact the Persimmon was grown from the seed of the only Persimmon tree to survive the bombing of Nagasaki.

These poems are a brilliant example of creative work that is reaching visitors and enhancing the site. All of the work is highly site specific and very memorable. Gerry Loose can be contacted at dharma46@hotmail.com

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"Uncertainty and mystery are energies of life. Don't let them scare you, for they keep boredom at bay and spark creativity." R. I. Fitzhenry, Editor *Barnes and Noble Book of Quotations* Harper Collins, 1987