

# BROOKHAVEN Review

Centereach, Lake Grove, North Centereach,  
Selden, Coram, Medford, and Patchogue  
35 Years of Service to the Community

Thursday • November 17, 2005

Subscription \$21.50 per year

USPS 470-440 Vol. 47 No. 3 • 75¢

## Dedication of Outdoor Sculpture

An interactive water sculpture by the acclaimed Long Island artist James "Slim" Cook was officially unveiled at a November 4 dedication ceremony for the Middle Country Public Library (MCPL) community. The ceremony was held from 8:30 am to 10:00 am in the library's outdoor reading garden at its Centereach facility.

Congressman Timothy Bishop and Michelle Isabelle-Stark, director of the Suffolk County Office of Film and Cultural Affairs, joined Amy Hagedorn of the Horace and Amy Hagedorn Foundation, library officials, and Mr. Cook at the ceremony.

"Libraries are designed to stimulate the imagination," said MCPL director Sandra Feinberg. "By introducing Slim Cook's outstanding work to the Middle Country community, we are proud to enhance the library experience for patrons of all ages."

Ms. Feinberg added that public libraries are fast becoming 'showplaces' for local artists, filling a void in opportunities to exhibit Long Island talent.

The sculpture by Mr. Cook — whose work is included in permanent exhibits at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and New York City's Museum of Modern Art — represents the latest example in the growing trend of using the region's public libraries as venues for "public art."

The reading garden sculpture project was largely underwritten by the Middle Country Library Foundation and the Friends of MCPL. The Centereach library itself has won

praise for its innovative architecture and distinctive design features.

Operating from his studio in Shoreham, Mr. Cook's recent works serve as prominent illustrations of the increasing presence of "public art" at libraries around Long Island. As a sought-after local artisan examples of his large-scale public sculptures are now on view at the North Shore Public Library in Shoreham, the Riverhead Free Library, Sachem Public Library, and the Village of Greenport. The sculptor's other Long Island installations are in Rocky Point and in two additional Riverhead sites.

Metal and wood sculptures by Mr. Cook — who earned a master's degree at Temple University's prestigious Tyler School of Art — are presently displayed in galleries, public spaces, and private collections across the country and around the globe, including London and Tokyo.

A pioneer in developing new library programs and building networks between libraries and communities, the Middle Country Public Library has developed a national reputation for innovation. Its programs are modeled across the country. MCPL's two buildings — in Centereach and Selden — provide more than 100,000 square feet of combined space, the largest on Long Island.



Long Island artist James Cook and his latest sculpture.