

# HUMBOLDT CULTURAL CENTER

422 FIRST STREET · EUREKA, CALIFORNIA

95501

May 10, 1978

Mr. Alfred Frankenstein  
901 Mission Street  
San Francisco, Ca 94119

re: Romano Gabriel "Sculpture Garden"

Dear Mr. Frankenstein:

The Humboldt Cultural Center in Eureka is planning a summer exhibition of folk art by the late Eureka, Romano Gabriel, an Italian immigrant. His work is nationally recognized, as you may know, with photographs having appeared in numerous publications, and in exhibits at MIT and Harvard, as well as in the book "All their Own, People and Places They Build", by Jan Wampler. Also, in 1976, parts of the garden and photos were featured in the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, in a folk art show curated by Seymour Rosen.

The sculptures were located in front of Mr. Gabriel's Eureka home until his death; then, this past year the property was sold. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Vellutini, Eureka, were able to purchase the garden, and have since restored the majority of the sculptures, having to move the garden, as the land and buildings were acquired by another party. The restored sculptures will be on view during this unique Cultural Center exhibit.

Friday, June 2nd is the official opening date of the exhibition beginning at 7:00 P.M., with the show continuing through August 14th. On behalf of the Cultural Center located at 422 First Street in Eureka's historic Old Town area, an invitation is extended to you to attend the opening as a special guest because of your interest in folk art. If not convenient at that date, however, arrangements could be made to host you during any dates of the show, at a time better suited to your schedule.

Because of your expertise in reviewing the arts, it is the hope of the show's sponsors that you might consider reviewing the show, and/or feel that it would be worthy of a photo feature space, with your copy, in "This World" or "California Living".

While the Cultural Center is a non-profit organization, whatever pre-stated expenses necessary to cover the cost of your travel and lodging, perhaps at the Eureka Inn, could be covered. Or, if you should prefer, the Vellutinis would house you in their historic home, or I would, gladly, in my country residence, where you would be assured of complete privacy, yet be but 10 minutes from Eureka.

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I have taken the liberty of enclosing a packet of information and photos of the Garden, for you to peruse.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this request. Would it be possible for you to reply by the end of May, so that if you do plan to visit the North Coast and see the exhibit, the details of your stay could be finalized, including a tour of the Carson Mansion, known as the most photographed Victorian in the nation.

Incidentally, it is the wish of the Vellutinis to present the Garden to the City of Eureka, locating the sculptures in Old Town, duplicating the sculptures' original environment. However, other possibilities are being explored and the Vellutinis have contacted a longtime friend of mine, Helen Heninger from Gumps, who is looking into the possibility of placing the sculptures in a museum. Perhaps you might have some suggestions.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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