



A BRIGHT DAY FOR BOLD ART

They arrived on the back of a flat bed truck in April. Silver stars made of galvanized steel. 49 of them in all. Stacked on the truck they were a curiosity; exhibited in precise rows of seven on the grass quad in front of Cecilia Hall they transformed into art.

Utilizing the plot that measured 75' X 75', artist John Sanders installed his latest work '49'. Known at Marymount for his previous installation, "Greyhounds" – an outdoor exhibit of running dogs constructed on the hills overlooking the Pacific – Sanders believed '49' was better suited to the space at the heart of the campus.

Viewed between the tennis court and the pool, the five foot structures made a bold and impressive statement that spoke to people on many levels. Some admired the precision of the placement, others marveled over the structure of each star while others appreciated the sheer beauty of the 'star shine' as sun glinted off the silver surfaces. These responses thrilled artist John Hillis Sanders.

He takes great delight in the changeability of the steel as it reacts to the environment. "It's quite a different thing to see a piece like this in changing light. In bright sun you can almost get a burn if you're near it too long. At night, there is a completely different feel."

Finding power and magic in the number seven – 49 is divisible by 7 – Sanders responds to those who enjoy the preciseness of his work pointing out that the exhibit "lined up in a perfect grid, much like an agricultural field."

Artist and art were celebrated with a poolside reception for over 200 neighbors, peninsula residents and art lovers. In fact, Time/Warner Cable television couldn't resist sending their cameras up to document the event. The interview and film of the installation now runs on the Marymount Website (www.marymountpv.edu).

During the course of the exhibition month, Sanders often visited his installation to record the responses of both people and nature to his work. Yet, there is also an educational lesson to be learned in his creativity; art often works hand in hand with science. Sanders proved this by combining a mathematical strategy and engineering preciseness with inspiration to create an emotionally compelling work. Surely it is written in the stars – all '49' of them – that this will not be the last time John Hillis Sanders' beautiful art graces the Marymount campus.