

## **Jedd Gareth**

born 1955, California  
resides in New York City

### **education / professional experience**

Raised in California, and attended high school in New Canaan, Connecticut, where he lived near the Philip Johnson home, an all glass architectural innovation. Gareth studied at Rhode Island School of Design and graduated from the School of Visual Arts in New York with a B.F.A.

## **NOTHING TOO STRANGE AND BEAUTIFUL**

sculpture, 1985

mixed media, wood, painted aluminum

located at the sculpture triangle to the left of the museum administration

### **description / design**

A theatrical picturesque sculpture positioning modern aluminum versions of the accouterments of Roman classicism — the temple front, the severed head, the brooding solitary, the eternal flame— on a slanted red wooden stage. Jedd Gareth built this piece as a contemporary "folly" for an exhibition in a large sculpture park, meant to be seen from a distance as were the follies of the European landscape, a way of creating a romantic illusion, a view of a faux antiquity and a focus within the landscape. 'Gareth telescopes his minimalist and late modernist theatrical sculpture into an extenuated view of ideas expressed by Neo Classical architecture and theory.'

### **subject / title**

NOTHING TOO STRANGE AND BEAUTIFUL was created from an existing painting (available in a 1984 book published about the work of Jedd Gareth) for an exhibition of outdoor sculpture at Wave Hill, a City of New York facility in the Bronx. He simply translated the enclosed shallow space of his painting to an equally enclosed but deep space of the sculpture. He says, "I basically took a 3D idea and popped it out." NOTHING TOO STRANGE AND BEAUTIFUL is also the name of a 19th century poem,

### **style**

Jedd Gareth is a painter as well as a sculptor. His style has been called mock abstraction, considered an advance in the idea not just the manner of abstraction. Each work displays an emotional peculiarity, with pathos tending towards violence as in Baroque Art, but ornamental as in Rococo and Art Deco and on a base of Surrealism. He uses incongruous abstract forms, inhabiting the same space for no apparent reason and mysteriously converging. His paintings have an edge of whimsy, wit and delicacy that makes their irony less leaden and obtuse.

### **tour anecdotes**

Jedd Gareth came to Hawaii to direct the restoration of the sculpture in 1991. He was consulted on all phases of the repairs and provided the personal touch of brush strokes and surface articulation of the aluminum. Gareth lives in a very unique loft space in New York, collecting books, objects and furnishings which contribute to his 'lounging lifestyle.'