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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Emily Emerick, Executive Director

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**Ladew Topiary Gardens Presents  
"Sculpture in the Garden"  
A Retrospective: Mary Ann Mears  
June 4 - October 31, 2017**

**Monkton, Maryland:** Amateur painter and sculptor Harvey S. Ladew had a keen appreciation of art in many forms — painting, traditional sculpture, garden design, and of course, the art of topiary. Over the years, Ladew Topiary Gardens has welcomed local, national and international artists to the Gardens to exhibit and sell their work. This year Ladew Gardens is honored to showcase the stunning works of award-winning sculptor Mary Ann Mears in an exhibition at Ladew. Mears' sculptures are available for sale. A portion of each sale will be donated to Ladew Gardens' educational programming.

Mears' bold, abstract sculptures, made of aluminum or steel, are often inspired by nature. Ladew's Wildflower Meadow, Butterfly House, Berry Garden, and courtyard are an ideal setting for these playful and colorful pieces. Mears says, "as an artist who is inspired by nature and is a bit of a gardener, it is very appealing to site my work at Ladew Gardens. The grounds encompass plantings from topiary which is at the apex of manipulating plants to create sculptural forms, to gardens planned around colors and themes, to the looseness of the plantings in the meadow and the woods where serendipitous combinations of color and form abound."

Mears has been commissioned to create site-specific art for public sites across a number of states including Florida, North Carolina, Michigan, Illinois, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Within her home state of Maryland, her commissioned works are located in Bethesda, Rockville, Cheverly, Belair, Glen Burnie, Silver Spring, Columbia, and at several locations in Baltimore. The impetus for her work has emerged from an intense conviction about the powerful role of art in a variety of social / cultural settings, public and private.

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Mears believes deeply in the importance of art in daily life and has been committed to nurturing the arts and arts education in her work in the non-profit sector as a volunteer arts advocate. She is a founding member of Maryland Art Place, helped to craft and successfully lobby for Maryland's Public Art Bill, is a trustee of Maryland Citizens for the Arts, and is the founder of Arts Education in Maryland Schools Alliance. She serves on the Maryland State Department of Education's Fine Arts Education Advisory Panel and recently co-chaired the Governor's P-20 Leadership Council's Task Force on Arts Education in Maryland Schools. She believes that it is critically important for each person to have access to meaningful and high quality arts experiences throughout their lives and has received numerous awards for her artwork and advocacy for the arts.

Mears is collaborating with Ladew educators to inspire our school field trip groups and summer camps with a combination of art, nature observations, and lessons. Additionally, Ladew guests will have the opportunity to learn about Mears and her artwork during our Fall lecture — "Sculpture in the Garden: A Retrospective" (Thursday, October 12).

For more information about Mary Ann Mears, visit [www.maryannmears.com](http://www.maryannmears.com)

Ladew Topiary Gardens has been named "One of the Top 5 Gardens in North America;" deemed "the most outstanding topiary garden in America" by the Garden Club of America; and featured as one of "10 incredible topiary gardens around the world" by Architectural Digest. Ladew is located on Jarrettsville Pike (MD 146), 14 miles north of the Baltimore Beltway (I-695), exit 27B (Dulaney Valley Road North). For more information, please call 410.557.9570 or visit [www.ladewgardens.com](http://www.ladewgardens.com). Ladew Topiary Gardens is a nonprofit, 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is "to maintain and promote the gardens, house and facilities in keeping with the creative spirit of Harvey S. Ladew for the public benefit and for educational, scientific and cultural pursuits. Both House and Gardens are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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