

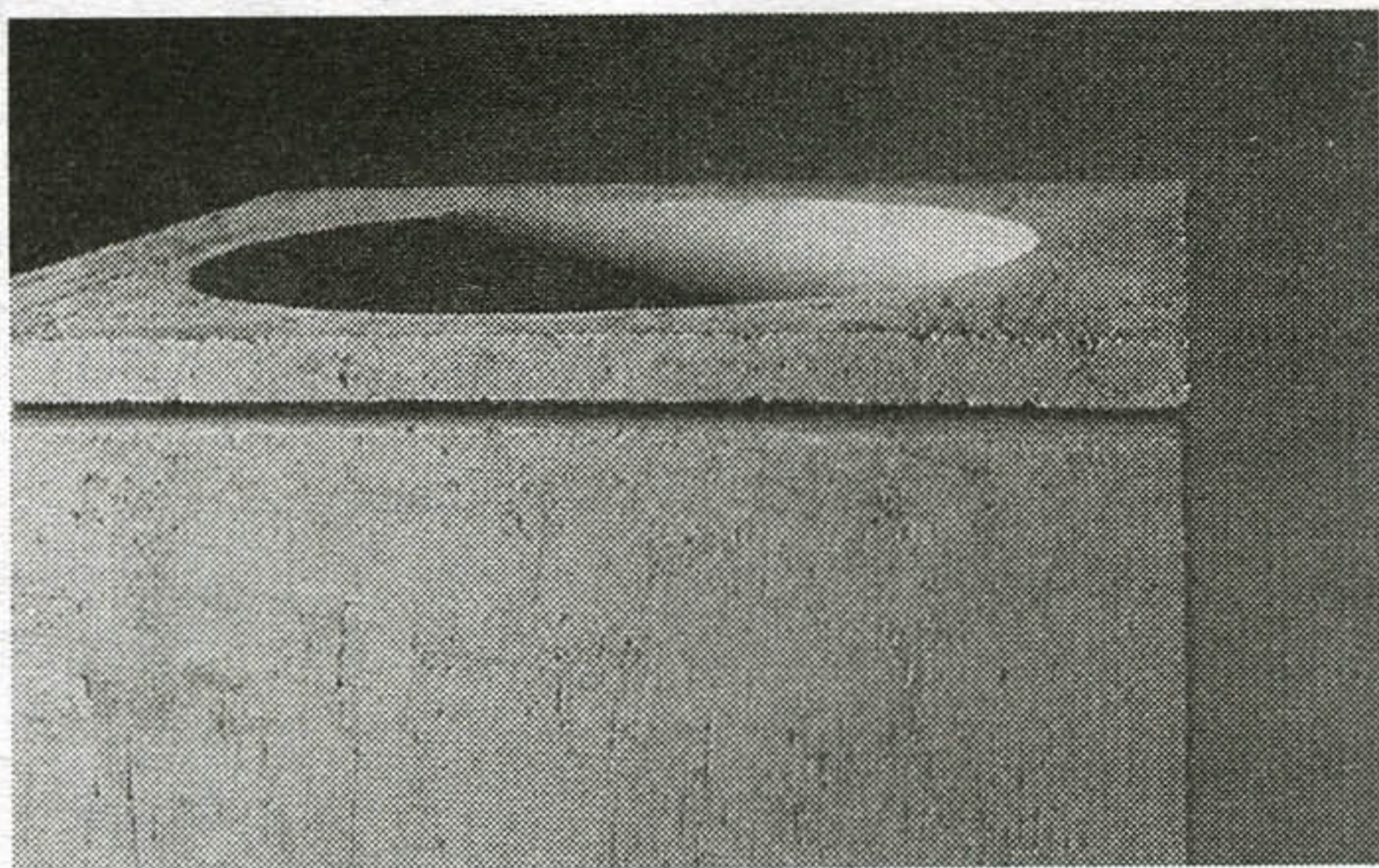
surface

symbol

all art is at once both surface and symbol

Volume 15
Number 2
March 2003

a publication of
SCARBOROUGH
arts COUNCIL



Roseland

a Garden of Earthly Delights

By J. Lynn Fraser

Burnt umber, cinnamon, gold glints and glossy black. Silken fur, aged wood, translucent glass, and gauzy fabric. These words only hint at the sensuality, elegance and European sensibility of Roseland, a new gallery at 702 Queen Street West. Dante and Francoise Larcade are the owners of Roseland. As partners they are as two entwined arms of an elegant candelabra. Each gives support to the other, but their illumination i.e., their approach to design, gives light to their gallery from different vantage points.

Francoise is fascinated by both art and archaeology. Her early career in jewellery design combined those passions. In Paris and Tokyo, her boutiques expressed her love for culture and objects d'art. Francoise believes that the way one lives should be an extension of one's personality and style. An aspect of her work at Roseland is guiding clients to art and furniture pieces that reflect the client's personal aesthetic.

The Larcade family in France played an important role in the 20th century. Dante's grandfather Edouard, with his good friend John D. Rockefeller (yes those Rockefellers), played a piv-

otal role in financing the Chateau de Versailles restoration. Edouard was also responsible for donating many important works of art to the Louvre museum. Jean Larcade, Dante's father, was an art dealer who championed the work of modern artists such as Cesar, Klein, Rauschenberg, Johns, and Saint Phalle in France. Dante's life has been equally as colourful. In addition to living and working around the world, he owned and managed an art gallery in Paris.

Roseland's approach to art and fine furniture is modern. They appreciate the aesthetics of various periods but are not bound to any one. The guiding motif of their gallery is authenticity, quality, rarity, and distinctiveness leavened with whimsy. Both Dante and Francoise are charming and approachable. They love to discuss art and design and in making the visitor feel with welcome with their hearty 'bonjours'.

Dante and Francoise have recently begun representing the works of painter Claire Basler. Basler paints elegant land- and skylscapes as well as focusing on scenes of single elegant flowers like amaranth, birds of paradise, and arum lilies. Her clouds are reminiscent of Constable and her modern approach to classical themes reminds me of David Bierk. With long elegant strokes of vibrant colour, Basler presents the life force of her subjects with subtlety hued and layered pigments. Her paintings are delightful to 'breathe in', especially on an overcast Toronto day.

Roseland is a garden. You can see this in the hand-blown glass chandeliers that blossom from the gallery's ceiling. You can almost 'smell' it as well in the organic papier mache sculptures that perch orchid-like on pedestals or 'feel' it in the tall minimalist stone vases that grow like stalagmites from the gallery's floors. Stepping into Roseland is like entering a garden of earthly delights—a feast for both the eye and the mind.