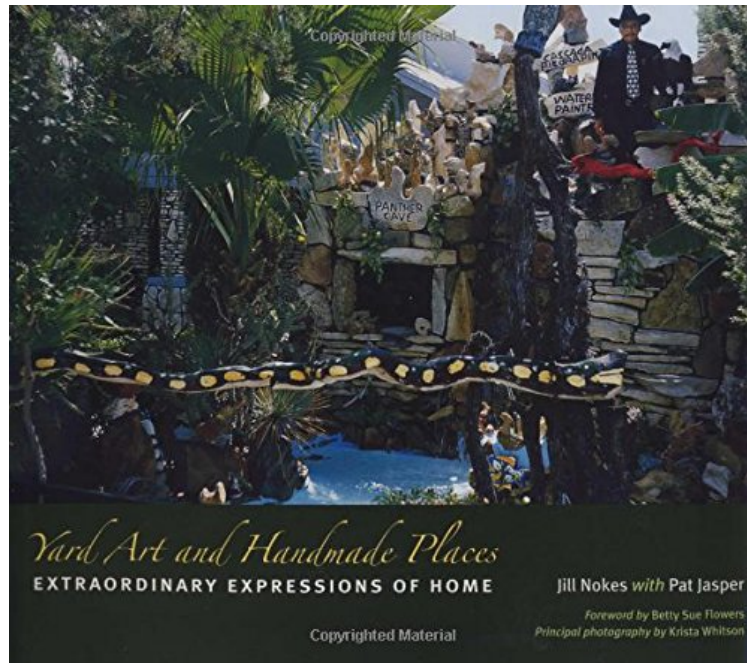


# Yard Art and Handmade Places: Extraordinary Expressions of Home

Jill Nokes

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**Jill Nokes : Yard Art and Handmade Places: Extraordinary Expressions of Home** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Yard Art and Handmade Places: Extraordinary Expressions of Home:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting, but not exactly what I had in mind By Holly Perhaps it's not fair to judge this on my expectations -- but the cover/title led me to believe this was a book about art yards, and would include a wide variety of different examples/ideas...kind of like a book version of Austin's annual Art Yard Tour. Unfortunately, it's not that. This book focuses on a few artistic individuals and what they've done to THEIR yards. And there is a lot of text about each person/yard...which is fine, I guess, because you get a lot of the person's "story." It's just not at all what I wanted. Since I really didn't like the styles of any of the yards featured, it was a complete bust where inspiration was concerned. Also, I was really surprised at the photos included for the one entry that I've personally visited...the "Cathedral of Junk" in south Austin. They did NOT represent that yard well at all. I've taken better pictures of the Cathedral of Junk myself (and I'm not a great photographer). This makes me wonder if any of the other yards were represented as well as they could have been. I had coveted this book for months before finally breaking down and spending the money, and it was mostly a disappointment. That said, if you're looking for a book that focuses on a small number of yards and gives a lot of context about each one, you might just love this book. :) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Super Fun and Delightful. By SC Garden Gnome This is a fabulous book. I've owned it for 9 years and look through it every so often. I love it. It's such a joy to see how creative people are when they have a passion, no matter what it is. The photos are wonderful. 0 of 0 people found the following review

helpful. She is a wonderful regional garden writer  
By James Leatherwood  
Needs more photos! She is a wonderful regional garden writer!

Relatively few people in America build their own homes, but many yearn to make the places they live in more truly their own. *Yard Art and Handmade Places* profiles twenty homemakers who have used their yards and gardens to express their sense of individuality, to maintain connections to family and heritage, or even to create sacred spaces for personal and community refreshment and healing. Jill Nokes, an authority on native plants and ecological restoration, traveled across the state of Texas, seeking out residents who had transformed their yards and gardens into oases of art and exuberant personal expression. In this book, she presents their stories, told in their own words, about why they created these handmade places and what their yard art has come to mean to them and to their communities. Rather than viewing yard art as a curiosity or oddity, Nokes treats it as an integral part of home-making, revealing how these places become invested with deep personal or social meaning. *Yard Art and Handmade Places* celebrates the fact that, despite the proliferation of look-alike suburbs, places still exist where people with ordinary means and skills are shaping space with their own hands to create a personal expression that can be enjoyed by all.

About the Author  
Jill Nokes is a landscape designer in Austin, Texas.  
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