

PALM BEACH

# Phipps art in local show

Work of 6 artists in one family at Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens.

**By Jan Sjostrom**

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Not many families could be the subject of an exhibition spanning six artists and four generations. The Phipps family can.

The artists featured in "Art in the Family Tree" at the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens in West Palm Beach are all related to Palm Beacher Susie Phipps Cochran, who also has works in the show. They are: Michael Phipps (her late father), Diana Guest (her late second cousin), Hubert Phipps (her cousin), Jay Cochran (her son) and Rafe Cochran (Jay Cochran's son).

The Phipps family fortune originated with Susie Phipps Cochran's great-grandfather, Henry Phipps, a partner in Carnegie Steel. The family once owned large stretches of coastal South Florida, including much of Palm Beach and the El Cid neighborhood, home of the Ann Norton.

That's one reason the Ann Norton mounted the exhibition, Executive Director Karen Steele said.

Susie Phipps Cochran's giant bronze insects and figurative pieces are more playful than the monumental abstract sculptures by Ann Norton that anchor the gardens, but they're equally at home outdoors.

Did family play a role in the artists' decision to pursue art? It depends on whom you ask.

"No," Hubert Phipps said. He's been making art for most of his life, even when he was a professional race-car driver in the 1980s.

Competitive sports run in the family. Michael Phipps was a champion polo player, and Jay Cochran competed on the endurance prototype circuit.

On the other hand, Susie Phipps Cochran handed Rafe Cochran