



Time to Dust? - Winter 2016

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## Recommended Plants:



Deutzia 'Yuki Cherry Blossom'

Like its reliable cousin, Deutzia Nikko, this new, [pink-flowered](#) shrub is deciduous, low-growing, and not

## Reflections

[Jan Kirsh Studio](#)

### Greetings!

Earlier this month, I spent a day in New York City visiting the [Picasso Sculpture show](#) at the Modern Museum of Art. After a 20-week run, the exhibit closed on February 7. I managed to sneak away from my drawing board just in the nick of time, and boy was it worth the trip!

Seeing the work of a master is always inspiring, but this collection of sculpture particularly so. As a painter, Picasso was formally trained. As a sculptor, he was self-taught, experimenting with materials, techniques, and modern possibilities across his lifetime as an artist. As such, the pieces have a sense of boundless freedom that will serve to energize my ongoing landscape design and sculpture work for months to come. Picasso once said, "*The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls.*" I can consider myself well dusted!

particularly fussy about soil type as long as it isn't extremely wet or dry.

Yuki Cherry blooms prolifically, especially if planted in a sunny location, and matures at 1-2' in height. It spreads by rooting where its arching stems touch the ground and will eventually form a nice, naturalized hedge. In fall, this variety's leaves turn a lovely purple-bronze.



**Heuchera 'Stainless Steel'**

A vigorous **Heuchera**, whose pink-white blooms attract butterflies and hummingbirds, the leaves of this cultivar are silver with hints of purple. It grows in an open mound to about 8" high and 16" across. An evergreen plant which benefits from some shade in hotter climates. It's May to July flowers are held on tall, maroon stems, making it a striking addition to any bed or border.



**Flower Carpet  
Rose 'Amber'**

The Flower Carpet Rose series has been around for nearly two decades, but **'Amber'** is part of a new generation with greatly improved features. Most notable on the list of improvements in this rose is fragrance, followed closely by superior disease resistance and tolerance to heat and humidity. With its profusion of flowers that emerge from reddish buds and mature to shades of peachy-pink, this compact shrub grows 30" high and slightly wider across. Blooms spring to fall.



Photo by Pablo Enriquez from MoMA

## Modern Possibilities

Picasso's sculptures were borne of his willingness to experiment with new techniques. In landscape design, there is seldom a season when a new plant or material doesn't find its way into my work. While the backbone of the design generally relies on products or techniques that have stood the test of time, I also pay attention to new developments and trends that might be a good fit for my clients.

For instance, the use of **porcelain pavers** instead of stone is a fairly new technique in garden design. The pavers are versatile in ways that stone is not, and they offer an elegant finished look that is both weather and load resistant.



## WHAT WE DO

We are happy to help you design and build your dream:

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- Excavation
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- Fences
- Driveways
- Fire pits
- Arbors, trellises, shade structures

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Porcelain pavers create an elegant finish for a client's newly renovated patio and pool.

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## Repetition

In addition to unfettered (uninhibited?) experimentation, Picasso also recreated the same pieces repeatedly, using different materials or methods. "The degree of invention...introduced brand-new ideas that had not been involved in the making of sculpture" before," said the show's co-curator, Ann Temkin in this [Voice of America article](#) about the exhibit.

A similar concept has always guided my own sculpture work. 3D modeling was cutting edge technology in 2007 when my original pieces were first conceived. Today, changes in that field continue to influence the scope of my work, with particular impact right now on my expanding jewelry line. I'm on the cusp of unveiling several new pieces of wearable art. If the R & D phase is any indication, these items promise to be a real treat!



3D model of *Fig*



3D model of *Pomegranate*

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## Unifying Details

Repetition also plays an important role in landscape design. Used well, it can impart **unity** to the comprehensive plan or to a single design element. As plants, patterns, materials, or colors are replicated, the entire space becomes more rhythmic, more intentional.



Beautifully detailed fence designed to also function as a deer barrier for a client's raised bed vegetable and cutting flower garden.



Repetition of details creates a rhythmic effect

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## Intentional

Now there's a word worth exploring. While by definition intentional means anything done deliberately or with purpose, it seems to also carry a sense of obligation and maybe a dose of accountability. What Picasso and other masters of their craft teach us is that it is possible for freedom and responsibility to be allies.

Though conceived years earlier, Picasso made *Man with a Lamb* (pictured below) frenetically, in a single day. The armature beneath the seven-foot tall model was nearly too flimsy to support the volume of clay the artist piled on it. Thankfully, the piece survived the journey to the foundry and remains part of Picasso's celebrated, inventive sculpture collection



Picasso's Man with a Lamb

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## For the Fun of It!

The artistic mind is often driven to create. The expression, whatever form it takes, is necessary, occasionally emerging before the practical components of the piece have fully crystallized. In the space between intention and fruition lies innovation. And with innovation comes liberation, comes whimsy, comes creation for the sheer pleasure of doing so. Who knew dusting could be so much fun?!

Enjoy,

JAN KIRSH **K** STUDIO



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*...Reflecting the intimate wonder of nature.*

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