



Art: *Cobalt Reeds*

Site: Peter's Pond

Place: LongHouse Reserve

Location: East Hampton, NY

Artist: Dale Chihuly



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There are a number of this artist's works strewn about the grounds at this landscaped design center/residence, and the idea of having blown glass outdoors is intriguing, to say the least. But, rather than just placing bright and shiny orbs around, like baubles to catch the eye, these rods, or reeds, are actually integrated in their site, very much mimicking the nature surrounding them at the water's edge. They seem, at first, to be another plant element, but their color is so super heightened – an Yves Klein ultramarine blue – and, besides, they do reflect light differently from most plant material. The reeds have that ability to blend and not blend, a great feat for artwork in a vast outdoor venue. The one thing that this garden sanctuary lacked often was a strong enough focal point in its garden rooms. This one has it in spades with this piece. Of course, the pond is a focal point, too; but without the glass reeds to pull the eye through the jumble of texture and color to a crisp, sharp-edged end- or start-point, there would be less “there” there. Their locus acts as that final brushwork on a painting that brings it all together and gives it purpose. A more necessary and meaningful pairing was not to be found elsewhere in the gardens. The placement, the intensity, the grouping despite the slim linear quality of the objects – all worked in perfect synchronicity with their environment. This should be a keeper.

Impact:

- Context/contrast
 - Scale
- Integration
 - Massing
 - Color
 - Minimal

Art-to-Site Rating: High

View Date: May 2008



Sculpturehead

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