

The University of Georgia Department of Art

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To Whom it May Concern:

During the 14 years that I have known Howard Finster, I have had the privilege of observing firsthand one of the most phenomenal success stories of the century. It is no exaggeration, whatsoever, to proclaim that Rev. Finster has a place, along with a handful of individuals, among the most important artists of this decade and probably this century. In my mind, Rev. Finster may be the only artist who deserves this status based on merit alone. Finster has the most astounding creative imagination of anyone I have ever met.

By far, the most important of Finster's prolific output is his "Paradise Garden." In fact, I often wonder if his production of commodity objects wasn't at the expense of his major work, "The Garden." Nevertheless, "The Garden" must be looked at as belonging to a small group of sites which are the most important examples of environmental art in America. These sites include "The Temple of St. Eom," S.P. Dinsmores's "Garden of Eden," the "Coral Castle," and the famous "Watts Towers." The latter has achieved status as a national historical site and received a one million dollar grant for its preservation and restoration.

I very strongly feel that Finster's Garden is of vital importance to America's art history and that every effort should be taken towards its restoration and preservation. This is especially important now when we have Finster there to personally direct a project of this nature. I lend my wholehearted support for any "save the garden" effort and am convinced that a project of this nature is of major importance on a local, regional, and national (even, international) level.

Sincerely yours,



Andy Nasisse  
Associate Professor of Art  
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