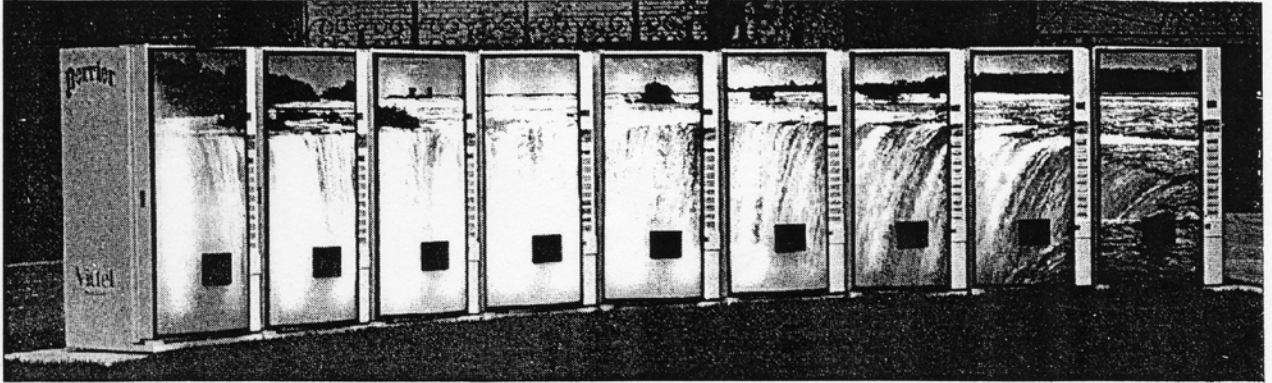


Fountain,
by James
Carl, at the
Toronto
Sculpture
Garden:
heavenly
alienation.



Sculptural surrogates bring a smile

Among the ills of modernity, we are often told, is our alienation from nature and from one another. Young New York-based Canadian sculptor James Carl — best known for his domestic appliances made of cardboard — pursues the theme of alienation at the Toronto Sculpture Garden.

A phalanx of eight vending machines, arrayed on the grassy slope of the garden, dispenses bottles of spring water — some bearing a James Carl label — for a loonie. Backlit colour photos of Niagara Falls at night decorate the front panels of the machines, forming a garish complement to the ersatz waterfall that is a permanent feature of the sculpture garden. Yet this clever, visually engaging array of surrogates and simulacra, called *fountain*, is anything but alienating.

To sit in the garden drinking water on a sunny spring day, listening to the waterfall and contemplating the illusory nature of reality, is a small bit of heaven on earth. *Until Sept. 30. 115 King St. E., Toronto. (416) 485-9568.*



Gallery Going

Gillian MacKay