

An American Garden

Sonsbeek Park

An American Garden was created for the Sonsbeek '93 exhibition in Arnhem, the Netherlands. The plot of soil, rocks, trees and other plantings displaced, both spatially and temporally, a section of Central Park, New York, as it was originally conceived in the 1870's, to Sonsbeek Park in Arnhem, the Netherlands. Layered over this terrestrial model of the 1870's are New York Parks Department landscape reports from the late 1970's which describe and define this particular section of Central Park, known as *The Ramble*, in terms of its two permanent constituencies: bird watchers and gay men. The texts, which are placed sporadically throughout the pathways and foliage, articulate the intermingling of the two groups and their relationship to the surrounding landscape, (its lack of maintenance, its erosion and its neglect), and to a notion of a larger, more 'general public'. **An American Garden** was placed within Sonsbeek Park, on a sloping lawn adjacent to an area of that park with similar characteristics and constituencies, and there reflected conditions of landscape design, Naturalism, and public perceptions of sexuality. The piece was disassembled at the close of the exhibition.