

TOURIST AGHAST

BOOZE AND PILLS DELUGE ELMHURST SCULPTURE GARDEN

BY PETALPUFF STONE

Tourists and residents are aghast by all of the booze and pills that litter the Elmhurst Sculpture Garden. "We do not behave in this manner! It is not normal to see other plants drunk in broad daylight!" Stated Neil Bergamot, a hand-drawn plant on the barrier of the garden. "There is no excuse!"

The Elmhurst Sculpture Garden is located in a high-traffic area between the Olive Garden and the off-ramp of the Long Island Expressway. Because of the heavy traffic location, it is easier for locals to abuse the garden. Tourist Ellie Elderberry, who let the wind carry her and her daughter to the garden, said, "I brought young Lily to view the beautiful sculptures from local artists, but it was a disgrace. I couldn't be in this garden without being affected by the alcohol in the soil. My beautiful petals wilted within minutes of being here!"

Tourists aren't the only ones unhappy with the environment. Soil-based flowers are in uproar about the unfairness of being impacted by happenings out of their control. Sedgwick Broad-Leaf, a New York native, is tired of being criminalized by the wall-based plants. "They think it's funny! They take pictures, record, and make fun of us in this state! If it's so easy being soil-based, they should get off the wall and try it!" The hand-drawn plants remain physically unaffected by people's litter, but are demanding something be done as their views of the sculptures continue to be disturbed by their neighbors.

For about ten years, the Elmhurst Sculpture Garden was a vacant lot filled with rats, trash,



Local wall-based plant Neil Bergamot photographing a drunk resident with his smartphone.

and bottles. About two years ago, human Yvonne Shortt and a group of volunteers cleaned the empty lot and transformed it into a garden by using art as a source of life. Shortt is hoping to persuade people to change their actions by bringing the plants' complaints to their attention and demonstrating the effects of littering in the space. "Hopefully people will start taking care of the garden... and begin to clean up after themselves," Shortt says. "What they do doesn't just impact other people; it impacts the plants too."

Petalpuff Stone is a hardworking young flower who is using wit and satire to bring awareness to the social injustices in her community. She's furious at the total disregard for green space in her community and can't understand why her garden is being used and abused by her neighbors. For additional information, or chance at a Queens Time feature, write her personally, by emailing petalpuff at @Regoparkgreenalliance.org