Boat show draws big crowds, sales

Zhang charged with lying

Chinese woman arrested after entering Mar-a-Lago

By Joe Mogavero
Daily News Staff Writer

A 31-year-old Chinese woman Friday was indicted on charges of lying to get into Mar-a-Lago while President Donald Trump was visiting his Palm Beach estate last month.

The charges against Yujing Zhang, 31, accused of lying to a federal agent and attempting to enter a restricted building, are the latest to lead to an investigation of President Donald Trump’s Mar-a-Lago while he was visiting Palm Beach.

Zhang was arrested on March 30. She carries a maximum five-year prison sentence.

While acknowledging they had found no evidence that Zhang was a spy for the Chinese government, at a hearing this week prosecutors indicated she might have added additional charges when the evidence was presented to a grand jury.

Zhang, instead, the indictment repeats initial allegations made by secret service agents.

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“Above: Second-grade students Lilly Ivancevic, left, and Annabella Benneman perform in the show. More than 40 students and several teachers performed in the show. (Photos by Meghan McCarthy/PalmBeachDailyNews.com)

Ann Norton headed into Florida Artists Hall of Fame

Induction ceremony for renowned sculptor is in Tallahassee today

By Susan Salisbury
Special to the Daily News

Ann Weaver, a nationally known artist, arrived in the Palm Beach area in 1942, at age 37. As burch sculptures at the Norton Gallery and School of Art founded by Ralph Norton the previous year.

Ann Norton and the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, an urban oasis she established as a non-profit foundation in 1977 before her death in 1982, are being given long-overdue recognition.

The sculptress – who married Norton in 1948 – would go on to create nine large-scale sculptures as tall as 28 feet where she lived and worked overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway in West Palm Beach.

The brick and granite works grace the lush green jungle-like gardens of the former Norton home at 253 Barcelona Road in the historic El Cid neighborhood.


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Kanai, board Chairwoman Frances Fisher, board chairman, and Director of Community Engagement Margaret Morgan will travel to Tallahassee to receive the Hall of Fame award on Norton’s behalf.

Fisher, a Palm Beach resident, said, “Our board has had a top priority of raising visibility for Ann Norton’s legacy to our community. This honor gives us an opportunity to not only celebrate her as an artist, but to begin to share her story and her contributions on a national and international conversation.”

Fisher became involved with the gardens in 2014 when she was asked to help form the stewardship arm of the organization, the Gardens Conservancy. About half of the 50 or so volunteers, board and committees members are Palm Beach residents.

“I have always loved art and gardens. Like Ann Norton, I am an atavistic Alabamian, and I grew up hearing stories. I am from Tuscaloosa. Ann was from Selma,” Fisher said. “Her legacy lives there as well. She was regarded not only as a woman who made a remarkable contribution to the world of modern art, but as a forward-thinking independent female who left the comfort of her southern home to study and then, of course, pursue her interest in sculpture at such an interesting time.”

Palm Beach resident Sally Soter, board vice chairwoman and head of the gardens’ art committee, said, “It is exciting what has happened and how Ann Norton is being thought upon now, that she did something wonderful for this community.”

Soter, who was on what is now the Norton Museum of Art’s board for many years, said that Ann Norton also influencing Ralph Norton in his collecting.

Kanai said that from everything she has read, Norton was singularly focused on producing art.

“That was the thing she absolutely lived for. After Mr. Norton passed away, she did do some travels, but the travel connected to her art,” Kanai said.

Norton’s monumental sculptures reflect the place she traveled. For example, “Seven Beings” shows a Mayan influence in the faces and some Navajo Indian as well, Kanai said.

Kanai said that Norton didn’t live to see the gardens, planted with more than 250 rare palm species, cycads and unusual tropicals. Sir Peter Smithers, a world-renowned botanist and friend of Norton’s, designed the gardens and selected the plants.

“She died in 1981. At that point it was her wish that the gardener who filled plants that would allow a visitor to walk through this jumble with the thousands of plants and come upon these huge sculptures should be hired,” Kanai said.

“The purpose of the garden was to display her sculptures. She didn’t want to put anything that would distract from those, to brightly colored flowers.”

Norton’s studio, kept as close as possible to the way it was when she worked there, gives visitors a chance to see the breadth of Norton’s work. About 100 smaller sculptures in wood, stone and bronze are displayed.

“You get the feeling she could walk in,” Kanai said.

Historic places designation

The award bestowed by the National Trust for Historic Places occurred after the organization’s director visited the gardens and fell in love with the house, the studio, the gardens and the combination of all of it in one place, Kanai said.

The gardens begin the certification process for membership in the group that includes about 30 artichalmes and studios nationwide. Membership in the prestigious group will give the Ann Norton the ability to share ideas on everything from preservation to programming, Kanai said.

“Hopefully, the people involved here are passionate about the wonderful green space – two acres, sort of right on the Intracoastal Waterway. A beautiful, wheel chair-friendly building around us in the downtown and everywhere, along the Flagler corridor here. We believe the wonderful urban sanctuary is going to be more important than ever as more people move here,” Kanai said.

About 20,000 people visit the sculpture gardens each year, including 3,000 Title 1 students for educational programming. Last year the pathways became wheelchair-friendly and an outdoor classroom was built.

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