

Falling Meteor 1975

Jerry Peart (American, b. 1948)

welded and painted aluminum

Commissioned by the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, GSU Foundation with support from the

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Collection of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

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Jerry Peart grew up in Winslow, Arizona, received a BFA from Arizona State University in 1970 and his MFA from Southern Illinois University in 1972. He moved to Chicago and joined a group of sculptors that included park artists Richard Hunt and John Henry.

In a 2006 statement, Peart described the evolution of **Falling Meteor**,

*“**Falling Meteor** . . . evolved into an abstract indication of the Meteor Crater, which is 14 miles west of Winslow, Arizona. The disk (the meteor), the interlocking shapes (the resulting impact site), and the horizontal element (the earthen Mesa which the Meteor struck) comprise the major elements of the sculpture . . . My sculpture did not start with the idea of a falling meteor but as an*

abstract conversation of forms used in [a] sort of language. This use of a language of forms is not unlike the notes for a musician or the words for a writer.

I had been working with . . . disk shapes that depict for me a sense of wholeness. These supporting shapes interlock to form a sense of communication with the accenting or dissenting disk. The last element, the long horizontal form . . . ties the sculpture’s front to the back and to the ground.”

Falling Meteor arrived on campus in 1976 as part of the groundbreaking exhibition **The Sculptor, the Campus, and the Prairie**. Other artists included in the exhibition were Mark diSuvero, John Henry, Jerald Jacquard, Richard Hunt, John Payne, and Edvins Strautmanis.