

Yes! For Lady Day 1968-69

Mark diSuvero (American, born China, 1933)

railroad tank car, steel I-beams, cable

Gift of Lewis Manilow

Collection of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

1971.01

Mark diSuvero (born Marco Polo diSuvero in Shanghai, China) fled China at the outbreak of WWII with his Italian expatriate father and settled in San Francisco, California. After entering the University of California, Berkeley in 1953, he studied painting and sculpture but earned a degree in philosophy, graduating in 1956. He immediately travelled to New York City, New York where he gravitated toward a group of artists who were expanding the vocabulary of abstract sculpture that had been pioneered by the American abstract expressionist sculptor David Smith.

In 1960, diSuvero was pinned above a freight elevator and severely injured. During his rehabilitation, he focused on learning arc welding and began to define his personal approach to using large, cast-off construction materials to create oversized sculpture.

Often his works have an interactive or moving component. DiSuvero personally fabricates each of his sculptures.

Yes! for Lady Day was created over a period of two summers while diSuvero lived in a farmhouse on what was to become the GSU campus. Loaned to the artist by Lewis Manilow, a prominent Chicago art collector and philanthropist, the site became a gathering place for sculptors such as Richard Hunt, John Chamberlain, and others.

The sculpture was constructed of salvaged steel I-beams and a railroad tank car cut at a diagonal ellipse by the artist. Its physicality possesses all the hard-earned swagger of mid-20th Century U.S. culture while the title directs us to a poignant note in American music history – the soulful and ultimately tragic blues singer Billie Holliday.