Newsletter April/May 2022, Issue 1

"Bodark Arc", by Martin Puryear is a land art sculpture that activates this specific site at theNate, chosen by the artist; Puryear helps us examine our history here by leveraging his experiences around the world in Sierra Leone, Japan, around the United States and elsewhere.





This issue of News from theNate looks ahead to an exciting year with the traditions you've grown to love, mixed with a few new features our friends, fans, and followers are sure to enjoy.





NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

EARTH DAY TOUR RETURNS!

Celebrate Earth Day with us on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 1 p.m. rain or shine!

Meet at the F Entrance to GSU, on the East side of campus, near the GIANT yellow sculpture by John Henry, "Illinois Landscape, No. 5" $\,$

Inside

- Considering Glass
- It's a Picnic!
- Our very own Hero



The tour will include sculptures in the collection that remind us to consider Mother Earth: "Working on the Failed Utopia" by Christine Tarkowski, "Field Rotation" by Mary Miss, "Bodark Arc" by Martin Puryear, "The Granary Project" by Dan Peterman, and we'll also experience the springtime views of the prairie restoration project, the Butterfly Ranch.

The newest acquisition to the collection, "Stargazing with Contrails" by Terrence Karpowicz, was inspired by the natural setting of theNate as well as other works in the collection, and will be a highlight of the Earth Day tour.



"Stargazing with Contrails", 2021 by Terrence Karpowicz references constellations of the night sky, traces of air travel in the daytime sky, and looking up – both literally and figuratively.

Earth Day got its start in 1970 and you can read more about it on the website earthday.org <u>https://www.earthday.org/</u> <u>history/</u> but here are a few of the interesting highlights of its origins:

Senator Gaylord Nelson, the junior senator from Wisconsin, had long been concerned about the deteriorating environment in the United States. Then in January 1969, he and many others witnessed the ravages of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, Senator Nelson wanted to infuse the energy of student anti-war protests with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution. Senator Nelson announced the idea for a teach-in on college campuses to the national media, and persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair. They recruited Denis Hayes, a young activist, to organize the campus teach-ins and they choose April 22, a weekday falling between Spring Break and Final Exams, to maximize the greatest student participation.

Earth Day inspired 20 million Americans — at the time, 10% of the total population of the United States — to take to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate against the impacts of 150 years of industrial development which had left a growing legacy of serious human health impacts. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment and there were massive coast-to-coast rallies in cities, towns, and communities.

A lot of progress has been made since 1970 to clean up the environment and limit pollution, and remembering that progress is important to help us continue the work that still needs to be done.

Please join us for this free event to reflect on the meanings of Earth Day and enjoy the monumental art created to inspire us.

Suggested donation of \$10 per person can be made online: govst.edu/NMSPdonation https://www.govst.edu/nmspdonation/

- or by using text-to-give simply **text "govst" to 44944** and follow the link to select theNate and securely enter your credit card information

- or send a check made payable to: GSU Foundation / NMSP



Bodark Arc Martin Puryear



Field Rotation Mary Miss



Working on the Failed Utopia Christine Tarkowski



The Granary Project Dan Peterman



www.govst.edu/sculpture

Governors State University 1 University Parkway University Park, IL 60484



Advisory Board for theNate (left to right): Elizabeth L. Kelley, Paul Uzureau, Leona Calvin, Kim L. Bright, Jennifer Traff, Patricia Mell Ragland (president), Jeff Stevenson (director, curator), Dr. Cheryl Green (GSU president), Tim Brennen, Yvonne Orr El, Jason Zingsheim (DAL chair), Gregg Lunceford, Jacqueline James Lewis, Aaron West (student member), Al Sturges. Not pictured: Shay Brokemond, Levoi Brown, Susan Ormsby, Victoria Strole

Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Board

Jeff Stevenson, Director & Curator Patricia Mell Ragland, President Elizabeth L. Kelley, Immediate Past-President Gregg Lunceford, Vice President

Timothy Brennan Kim L. Bright Shay Brokemond Levoi Brown Leona Calvin Jacqueline James Lewis Susan Ormsby Yvonne Orr-El Victoria Strole Paul Uzureau

Ex-officio

Lewis Manilow, (08/11/1927-12/12/2017), Founder Cheryl Green, Ph.D., GSU President Will Davis, Vice President, Institutional Advancement, Marketing and Communications, Chief Executive Officer, Jason Zingsheim, Ph.D., Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Website: www.govst.edu/sculpture General Email Address: jstevenson@govst.edu Phone: 708.534.4021 Hours: Dawn until dusk every day Admission: Free admission to park, some activities have fees.

© 2022 Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

Please direct questions or comments to Jeff Stevenson, Director & Curator, Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park and Visual Arts Gallery, Governors State University.

Director's Notes

It is my hope as you read this first edition of News from theNate for 2022 that you will see the year ahead like I do: full of possibilities, new adventures, and enduring friendships. You'll read about our programming with helpful dates, times, themes and suchlike. But please know that behind each event, every article, there are valued relationships with our community partners.

For example, Southland Arts organization has stepped into the Juneteenth planning with talent, skill, ability, knowledge, and enthusiasm. Chuck Sabey from Freedom Hall in Park Forest will once again lend his expertise in coordinating the music presentations. Alan Franklin from Muzicnet, Park Forest and Valerie Nicholson from Prairie State College Jazz Ensemble are taking the lead in designing the musical program. I'm so happy to call these folks friends and that I get to work with them in Southland Arts: connecting arts and hearts to build stronger community.

Also on board to bring all of these ideas to life for you, are my friends and colleagues at GSU: Sherri Denault, Education and Outreach Coordinator for theNate, Karen Caesar and Shannon Olison in the GSU Events Office, Stacy Amedeo in College of Arts and Sciences – so eager and willing to lend their time and talents to make Juneteenth, and all of our events at theNate, (along with lots of other things at GSU) wonderfully successful.

The Advisory Board for theNate bears mentioning too, particularly our Board President, Patricia Mell Ragland – many projects are in the works, so watch for news in the future - but I mention this here because I'm filled with gratitude for the people that surround me that love theNate. In a world where there is so much that causes great concern, it is wonderful to be working with so many friends that fill me with hope and bring me joy.

When you read about everything happening at theNate – Sculpture, Wine & Dine is back by popular demand, several new sculptures are scheduled to arrive, Outdoors@theNate school programs, and the rest - remember there is a backstory too. A story that you are part of in many ways - chief among them: YOU voted us the Number One Sculpture Park in the Nation in USA Today's Readers' Choice Award, 2021. Your support fills us with gratitude and inspires us to fulfill the mission of theNate. Thank you for your support!

With Warm Regards, Jeff Stevenson Director & Curator, theNate

Donate online <u>https://www.govst.edu/nmspdonation/</u> or checks made payable to: NMSP/GSU Foundation mailed to: Jeff Stevenson

theNate at Governors State University 1 University Parkway University Park, IL 60484

You can also stay up to date with new developments by following us on our website and social media:

www.govst.edu/sculpture

https://www.instagram.com/ thenate / https://www.facebook.com/thenate.gsu



2022 CALENDAR EVENTS

Saturday, April 24 Earth Day Tour

Thursday, May 19 Nate and Frank: Considering Glass

Saturday, June 18 Juneteenth / Summer Solstice

Friday, July 29 Ann Coddington Workshop, Public Reception and Artist's Talk , walk theNate Saturday, September 10 Sculpture, Wine & Dine

Saturday, December 10 Winter Walk and Ceramics Sale to support GSU Students in need.

All events are IN-PERSON unless otherwise specified; please check our website and event flyers closer to the date for detailed information about your visit.

Follow us on Facebook @thenate.gsu and on Instagram @_thenate_ and use #thenate to share your visit to YOUR favorite sculpture park!

EDUCATION

The pandemic gave us the opportunity to provide virtual tours and virtual field trips, and although we will continue to make the virtual experiences available, we're excited that so many schools and organizations are now scheduling IN-PERSON tours and field trips! Let your community schools and organizations know so that they can get on the calendar – times are filling up fast for Summer and Fall!

Outdoors@**theNATE** is a unique, outdoors, hands-on, customizable program. Our tours are thorough and age-appropriate. We can accommodate school groups from Grades 4 to 12. Tours may be designed to a variety of time-frames and abilities – please contact park staff to discuss your particular needs.

And it has received rave reviews from teachers and students alike:

Thank you so much for hosting us today! We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It was not only very well organized, but also incredibly educational and relatable to our students. It is amazing when students can connect what they are doing in the classroom with the outside world. Thank you for a wonderful field trip today! ~ 4th Grade Teacher, Flossmoor

The most memorable things were when we saw the Windwaves and when we went hunting for plants in the sculpture that Mary Miss made. ~ 4th Grade Student, Chicago Heights

Outdoors@**theNATE** is an interactive program designed to build awareness of visual thinking, address elements of the Common Core Curriculum, help satisfy aspects of the ISBE Standards and Goals for 4th and 5th grade, present artworks as part of S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, ARTS, and Math) principles. The fee for **Outdoors@theNATE** is \$10 per student and \$5 per adult teacher or chaperone. This fee includes the Nate-book and all materials. It does NOT include lunch or transportation.

Outdoors@theNATE is offered by appointment so contact Sherri to schedule your class visit:

Education and Outreach Coordinator: Sherri Denault sdenault@govst.edu 708-534-4021



ABOUT THE TOWN



Artist Terrence Karpowicz honored at the Beaux Arts Ball hosted by the Tall Grass Arts Association of Park Forest. Left to right: Leona Calvin (Board Member for theNate); Elizabeth Karpowicz (Board Member for theNate, wife of the artist); Karen Caesar (Director, University Events Office); Terrence Karpowicz, Honoree; Patricia Mell Ragland (President, Advisory Board for theNate); Jacqueline James Lewis (Board Member for theNate); Lana Rogachevskaya (Director, Center for Performing Arts, GSU).

On Saturday, March 26, the Tall Grass Arts Association hosted its annual Beaux Arts Ball with this year's theme being: "Calling all Heroes". Terry Karpowicz certainly is one of our heros at theNate with two pieces in the collection.

Terry lives and works in Chicago, creating sculpture in a variety of media. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, he received degrees from Albion College in Albion, Michigan and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign before being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study with Jim Davies, British master millwright. The experience with Davies provided definition in Terry's search for a personal aesthetic, one that continues to value a supreme degree of craftsmanship coupled with an honest approach to materials.

Stargazing with Contrails, 2021 completes our founder's vision to have a Karpowicz outside, in the center of the collection. Art Ark, 1981, which is currently sited in the D Main Entrance of GSU, was originally sited outdoors, requiring it to be re-fabricated and moved indoors in 2006.

Stargazing with Contrails makes direct references to other works in the collection as well as the prairie setting, through color, materials, and design. The yellow of Illinois Landscape, No. 5 by



John Henry seen across the lake, and the I-beam construction of Yes! For Lady Day, are seen in new and inventive ways, capturing the patterns of constellations, and pointing us to the North Star. The artist is celebrating the open sky and encouraging us to look up, literally and figuratively.

This piece was donated to the collection in 2021 as a gift by Paul and Linda Uzureau, during the dark days of the pandemic, providing hope, forward-looking vision, and awe during uncertain times.

Terry's generosity of spirit found in his artwork is also demonstrated throughout his life. He is a central figure in the Chicago art world in terms of being a "go-to" guy to get the job done. He has assisted countless numbers of artists with the installation of their work and demonstrates the ideals of community, camaraderie, and friendship. He is well loved not just for the work he does, but also how he does it. Congratulations Terry for this well-deserved honor. Your artwork brings magic to our world, and you bring inspiration to our lives.

"Stargazing with Contrails", 2021 arrived in time for its unveiling at our very own *Sculpture, Wine & Dine, 2021* and an official dedication ceremony will take place on Saturday, September 10, 2022 at *Sculpture, Wine & Dine 2022*. Save the date! And watch for more details soon.



Common, Yet Mysteriously Symbolic Material: GLASS

Friends, fans, and followers of theNate are familiar with the illuminated dome at GSU's D Main Entrance, "Working on the Failed Utopia" by Christine Tarkowski. And if you've been in Millennium Park, Chicago in the last few years you will have seen an installation of Tarkowski's work that incorporates glass components suspended overhead on cables strung through the trees, the glass being in contrast to large boulder-like constructions on the ground. Tarkowski has also installed a new project The Second Law at Thermodynamics: Entropy Permanent commission for UIC's Engineering & Innovation Building 945 W. Taylor Street, Chicago see a video here: https://youtu.be/kTi6usKSHFE

And we're excited to announce that our popular event "Nate and Frank" is back, at The Bradley House in Kankakee (**Wright in Kankakee**, Frank Lloyd Wright, B. Harley Bradley House) https://wright1900.org

Christine Tarkowski's glass works will be on display for the event and to be in conversation with the detailed glass windows that FLW designed for the Bradley House. The conversation about the intersection of Art and Architecture continues with this common yet mysteriously symbolic material, glass. Join us for a glass of wine, charcuterie and conversation:

Nate and Frank: Considering Glass Featuring the glass work of Christine Tarkowski Thursday, May 19, 2022 5 – 7 p.m. with remarks at 6

Free Public Event – donations to both organizations can be made through our websites.









Celebrate JUNETEENTH and the Summer Solstice at theNate

Plan to join us on Saturday, June 18, 2022 from 1 to 4 p.m. (plus additional evening events), mark your calendar – but first, a little history:

January 1, 1863 President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation June 19, 1865 Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free.

Attempts to explain this **two and a half year delay** in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down through the years. Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom. Another is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. And still another is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. All of which, or none of these versions could be true. (from Juneteenth.com <u>https://www.juneteenth.com/history/</u>)

The celebrations of Juneteenth began in 1865 and have evolved to become a tradition, taking many shapes over the years, with food and fun activities, and also a focus on education and selfimprovement. We are so excited to be hosting this event annually at theNate and GSU because of the way it activates our sculpture collection and inspires our community.

Planning has begun for Saturday, June 18, 2022 to bring back the most popular features from our first Juneteenth Celebration in 2021, and improve upon the day of activities. Once again, drumming will welcome visitors and motivate our promenade into the sculpture park to "Yes! For Lady Day" by Mark di Suvero for music and spoken word / poetry inspired by Billie Holiday (the inspiration for the sculpture). We will return to "Illinois Landscape, No. 5" by John Henry, after a brief intermission, to enjoy another performance of music and poetry. An art gallery exhibition, food and refreshments, followed by an evening tour of sculptures by Richard Hunt and Martin Puryear – enjoying the Summer Solstice late sunset on the longest day of the year. Stay tuned for more information about the entire line up.

We are proud that our advisory board for theNate reflects the diversity of the communities we serve, with many of our founding members engaged for over ten years. Our dedication to theNate's mission of Art, Conservation, and Education resonates with the principles of education and self-improvement central to Juneteenth.



And it is interesting to combine this celebration with Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year. There are many cultural traditions around the world that you can read more about on the Scientific American Blog <u>https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/</u> <u>literally-psyched/why-we-celebrate-the-summer-solstice/</u>. The Greeks anticipating the Olympics, the Romans allowing slaves to participate in the games as free men, rituals to site fairies, enhance botanical potency, ritualize deceased Chinese poets, feasts of the Christian saints, sun dances and architectural alignment, and on and on. But one aspect of the Summer Solstice no matter the culture, is the effect of more sunlight and longer days on our outlook and attitude. The increase in the length of each day leading up to the Solstice marks an increase in our positivity and urge to celebrate.

So, get ready to celebrate with us on June 18, 2022!







Recycling is a Picnic; Sustainability: A Walk in the Park

TheNate has been working hard to bring you new and exciting sculpture. In the last few years an Abbott-Pattison donation was made by Sean Susanin, the Henri Etienne-Martin sculpture was relocated from an unused, remote spot on campus to a prominent location on the gallery patio, Neil Goodman's Rudder was on loan and will depart this spring, and the brand-new *Stargazing with Contrails* by Terrence Karpowicz was installed in 2021, and another new acquisition is currently underway by Bernard Williams. A two-year installation by Indira Johnson is being planned, and this spring we have yet another sculpture coming. And can you guess who it is this time? Here's a hint: it's an artist who already has work in the park, just recently ended a show at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, and has spearheaded several socially engaged projects throughout Chicago. You've got it! It's Dan Peterman.

Coming soon, we'll have Peterman's *Running Table* on a long-term loan from the City of Chicago. If you're from the Chicago area you're likely familiar with this work: a 100-foot-long picnic table made from reprocessed plastics most recently located in Chicago's Millennium Park right next to "The Bean". *Running Table* was first on display in Chicago's Grant Park in 1997 and then moved to Millennium Park in 2009. Peterman's *Granary Project*, which is already part of the park's collection, is created out of the same material and, like *Running Table*, sits at the intersection of art and ecology.

Unlike other works in the park though, this one is meant to be used as a picnic table, which we hope will be ready for some of our spring and summer events at theNate, such as Earth Day celebration on April 23rd and Juneteenth on June 18th. Allowing, requesting, and depending on viewers to interact with the art, Peterman blurs the line of art and utilitarian objects.

Upon first glance at this work, I thought to myself, "If it's a functional picnic table, where's the art in it?" Perhaps, in its history. This table was made from heaps of reprocessed plastics like many of his other works. Yes, finally this plastic, in its second life has matured into a state of more than a single use item. It can be used and reused for many years by many people. It appears to be a good use of plastic waste material that, in fact, is not actually so easily recycled into new plastics as we once thought. That's good news! For a brief moment, my anxious feelings around plastic consumption are somewhat eased knowing we have a new solution for plastic waste. But, the amount of plastics used only represents a minuscule amount of the plastics humans so casually toss out, daily. How can this be enough of an evolution from our single use plastic consumption? Peterman doesn't intend for reprocessed plastics turned into other functional objects to be the only answer to our problems. Running Table is woefully small for such a massive order. He is aware there is not a single answer to our plastic problem.



A table is physically the place where we eat. It is at a table that we share our time, food, and stories. Symbolically, it's a place where we are in communion with ourselves or one another; nourishing our body, mind, and spirit. In the configuration of one long table, *Running Table* conjures up memories of institutional meal times, like Laurie Palmer of **Frieze Magazine** writes, "school lunches, church suppers, prison mess halls, or the generosity of the Seder table, at which there is always room for one more." It's uncertain who will come to meet you at the table, but the table's configuration invites whoever it may be, into a conversation, revealing our willingness to be in communion with one another. Its history and material invite consideration of our consumption and climate challenges that face all of us.

The opportunity to be in conversation is what is necessary to generate many ideas from varied perspectives. Because the design of the table evokes many different institutional memories, it "takes on a class-crossing potential..." (Palmer). Peterman's hope is that the table is simply that: a place to have conversations that will generate many ideas relevant to sustainable living practices. Climate scientists agree the best thing we can do about climate change is talk about it. Simply talking about it helps people be aware thus empowering more people to be agents of change.

One idea, one practice, one table, one person alone cannot solve our climate crisis, but together we can find sustainable systems to nourish ourselves in body, mind, and spirit. Through *Running Table*, Peterman offers up one humble solution and a great big helping of possibility. It will take an uncounted number of small ideas and a willingness to be in communion at a table in a conversation to total something significant. *Running Table* is a reminder and catalyst for such change. Peterman recognizes that he cannot do it alone, but perhaps he can spark ideas and create opportunities that hold space for such conversations, ultimately leading to the change we need.

~ Victoria Strole, contributing writer

AMBASSADORS FOR theNate

Another information session about our Ambassadors for theNate program has been scheduled. Find out how you can help us fulfill our mission of Art, Conservation, and Education, while having fun with likeminded individuals. Join us for a Zoom meeting to learn the details:

Tuesday, May 10 at 10 a.m. – email Sherri Denault sdenault@govst.edu for Zoom meeting information.

Calling all art lovers! Do you want to learn more about theNate, a world-class sculpture park and the best-kept secret of the South Suburbs? Do you already know and love theNate, and want to share that love with your community? Do you want to have fun while learning something new? If so, we want you! We are building a network of volunteers to help us with our mission.





BENEFITS

Ambassadors for theNate get an opportunity for:

Social meet-ups once a month

- enjoy gathering with others for lunch or an evening glass of wine – compliments of theNate – and a walk through the park
- Service
 - represent theNate in your community through family, friends, and organizations
 - join some or all of our planned events, bring friends
 - help park staff with school tours

Life-long learning

- engage with the history of theNate / Art History with Dr. Becky through a free online course at your own pace www.govst.edu/sculpture
- earn the Certificate of Completion
- explore other valuable resources provided for learning

You can customize your experience to do a little or a lot, but either way you will be part of something great. No previous knowledge or experience is necessary, just an interest in art, the outdoors, and the communities we serve.

JOIN Ambassadors for theNate!

For more information about volunteering or taking the course, contact Sherri Denault, *Education and Outreach Coordinator* (email) **sdenault@govst.edu**

Sculpture, Wine & Dine Back by Popular Demand

We are excited to present our signature fundraising event again this fall on **September 10, 2022: "Sculpture, Wine & Dine".**

The pandemic has had a lot of effects on planning events and you might recall that during the pandemic we opted to conduct a virtual event "The Priairie Party" which you can watch on YouTube **https://youtu.be/roLlcGGXnvE** Because of some continued uncertainty, we were also planning to present SWD as a biennial event. But anecdotal evidence has indicated that our friends, fans, and followers are READY for another Sculpture, Wine & Dine.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, September 10, 2022 starting at 4 p.m.

A dedication of *Stargazing with Contrails*, our newest acquisition, will be a centerpiece of the event.

Several temporary installations will also be on view:





Claire Ashley, in the Visual Arts Gallery and in the park, *playful and provocative inflatable artwork*.



Dan Peterman, Running Table



Indira Johnson, 10,000 Ripples Project

Al P. Sturges

December 7, 1934 ~ February 18, 2022 (age 87)



We are heartbroken to announce the passing of our dear friend and long-time Advisory Board Member for theNate, Al Sturges.

He and his family requested memorial gifts in tribute to AI be made to theNate. So far over 55 individuals have made a gift in AI's memory exceeding \$5,000.00; it was also AI's wishes to direct these gifts to our New Acquisitions Fund.

Donate online https://www.govst.edu/nmspdonation/

Al Sturges demonstrated a life well lived. His memorial service was filled with family and friends sharing stories of his engagement with his community, neighbors, organizations, and with life. Al will be deeply missed.

Text To Give

- Text: govst to 44944
- Select theNate on the menu
- Indicate the dollar amount
- Enter your credit card information

Donate Online https://www.govst.edu/nmspdonation/

or by checks made payable to: **NMSP/GSU Foundation** And mailed to: Jeff Stevenson **theNate at Governors State University** 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484

You can also stay up to date with new developments by following us on our website and social media:

<u>www.govst.edu/sculpture</u> <u>https://www.instagram.com/_thenate_/</u> <u>https://www.facebook.com/thenate.gsu</u>



The **free Otocast app** is a valuable resource for visitors to enhance your experience at your sculpture park right on your own phone! Explore the park with the voices of multiple renowned sculptors leading the way. Look for it in your app store on your phone, and use it at destination attractions all over the world.



www.govst.edu/sculpture



Sculpture, Wine & Dine 2021