News from theNate DIGITAL Newsletter June/July 2022, Issue 2

"Oscar's Inclination", by Michael Dunbar, can be seen through the Spring blossoms on GSU's campus.





Spring has finally arrived for this issue of News from theNate – our friends, fans, and followers are sure to enjoy.



NATHAN MANILOW SCULPTURE PARK

EARTH DAY TOUR FEATURED ON ABC7

On Saturday, April 23, our Earth Day Tour welcomed Jordan Arseneau (Editor/Producer at ABC Television, greater Chicago area), who captured content for the *"Stroke of Genius"* show, which can be seen on *"Localish"*, a lifestyle TV network on ABC.



Inside

- Earth Day Featured on ABC7
- Calling All Volunteers!
- Student Advisory Board Member Welcomed

The resulting video captures theNate perfectly! Watch it here:

https://abc7chicago.com/governors-state-universitynathan-manilow-sculpture-park-the-nate/11835457/

The tour included 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 the springtime views of the prairie restoration project, the Butterfly Ranch. "Stargazing with Contrails" by Terry Karpowicz, referencing the natural prairie setting and the night sky, inspired visitors who enjoyed an 80 degree day after a long, cold, wet Spring.







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

Welcome to the second edition of News from theNate for 2022 – and welcome to theNate! Now that warmer weather is here, I hope you will plan a visit soon to enjoy the Spring views, and reconnect with your favorite artworks in the collection.

The Prairie Goddess smiled upon us for our Earth Day Tour – fantastic weather and an enthusiastic group made for a terrific time in the park. And you can see for yourself because we were recorded for the "Stroke of Genius" show on ABC7 – <u>watch it here</u> – and share it with your friends. The segment captures theNate perfectly!

Next up is our annual Juneteenth Summer Solstice Celebration – Saturday, June 18th from 12:30/1 – 6 p.m. You'll see that we have quite a line up of sculpture, music, spoken word, food, and more. But what makes it so exciting for me is the collaborative nature of the event. Our friends from Southland Arts are fully engaged, the Village of Park Forest is instrumental, and we'll be updating our schedule with yet another addition: the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra is putting together selections to celebrate the day. Make sure you <u>register early</u> to get your free BBQ!

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 AT A GLANCE

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 Calling All Volunteers!

We are preparing for our fun-filled, educational, **Outdoors**@ **theNate** school group program for September – October, 2022. We need volunteers to walk small groups of children with their teachers and chaperones to the sculptures. Volunteers will discuss the artworks and the artists along the way using easy to follow materials and prompts. No previous experience or knowledge required.

If you're available on Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays, from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., in September and October, we would love to have you!

You can sign up for as many tours as you'd like. Contact *Education and Outreach Coordinator*, Sherri Denault by email <u>sdenault@govst.edu</u>

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 or To learn about the Outdoors@theNate program & volunteer opportunities:

Education and Outreach Coordinator: Sherri Denault sdenault@govst.edu

sdenault@govst.edu 708-534-4021



EDUCATION

Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative

Thanks to the generous and inspired giving by supporters like you, theNate is able to carry out the vision of our founder to present monumental outdoor sculpture and to do social good. We are envisioning a listening tour to connect with and activate the 22 communities that surround theNate:

> Beecher Crete Country Club Hills Chicago Heights Flossmoor Ford Heights Frankfort Glenwood Hazel Crest Homewood Markham

Matteson Monee Olympia Fields Park Forest Peotone Richton Park Sauk Village South Chicago Heights Steger Tinley Park University Park

The diversity of these communities provides opportunities to bridge social divides and celebrate the work already being done by individuals and organizations focused on social justice. Here at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, we believe that the confounding nature of abstract art offers us equal opportunity for curiosity, and provides a level playing field because of its mysteries. And we also believe that simply getting to know people who are different from ourselves is a powerful way to foster understanding, create connection, and build relationships – relationships that one by one can ultimately improve the divisive world we all experience today.

The Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative is sparking new and exciting connections with the communities we serve. We are working with community leaders to identify individuals and organizations engaged with the work that the initiative seeks to do around social equity. **Our founder, Lew Manilow, recognized how art serves as one of our brain's organizing systems, and that one of the reasons it has survived and thrived for tens of thousands of years is that art raises our aspirations and helps us to imagine and achieve great goals.**









www.govst.edu/sculpture

ADVISORY BOARD for theNate Welcomes Student Member



"After graduation, I will be entering my first semester as a graduate student in GSU's Master of Business Administration program. I am an editor for "Reconstructed", an Art and Literary Journal for students in the Division of Arts and Letters, College of Arts and Sciences. Based in Chicago Heights, I appreciate being so close to the #1 sculpture park in the nation. No matter how many laps I take around the park, I still seem to find new sculptures every day."

~ Andres Cornejo

Andres was recently featured in the **Agora**, and here is an article and interview with Andres, by Zion Banks:

Slated to receive a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Business Administration and Management, Andres Cornejo is one of many Governors State University (GSU) students who received valuable hands-on experience as a student worker.

He describes his time as a social media coordinator for the Department of Marketing and Communication as one of the most impactful experiences he's had at GSU. Post-graduation, he'll be expanding on what he's learned in that role as a graduate student in GSU's Master of Business Administration program.

GSU Newsroom: What drew you to GSU?

Cornejo: I was drawn to GSU for its affordable tuition and close proximity to home. I knew it was the next step in continuing my education.

GSU Newsroom: What conversation(s) that started at GSU will you continue into your workplace?

Cornejo: It can be easy to want to "follow a format" to succeed. While everyone works hard to improve the lives of others, we sometimes forget to stop and smell the flowers. Along with important responsibilities, come beautiful people -- each with their own loved ones, hobbies, and dreams. This glimpse into the hearts of others has been planted at Governors State, and I plan to let it flourish everywhere I go afterwards.

GSU Newsroom: What does being a Jaguar mean to you?

Cornejo: Being a Jaguar means having the courage to pave a better future for myself. Although life does not slow down, we will be Jaguars forever. Through peaks and valleys, there will be a community that always accepts us with open arms. Jaguars are selfless. A Jaguar shares their success and lessons learned from mistakes to enrich the lives of others.

vvGSU Newsroom: What are your top two experiences (or professors) at GSU and why?

Cornejo: One of the most impactful experiences at GSU has been during my time as a student worker in the Department of Marketing and Communication. As a student worker I have had the opportunity to be more involved in the university and explore different applications of my skill set. Also, during a global marketing course, I had the opportunity to consult with a top firm in Brazil to solve a problem for them. I had the opportunity to not only connect with students from GSU, but students from a local university in Brazil too. It was a great experience to conduct research on foreign markets.

GSU Newsroom: What were some challenges at GSU and how did the university help you to overcome them?

Cornejo: One of the challenges I have faced is really getting back into a social environment after being remote for so long. The events the university hosts give me an opportunity to get out of the house and network with the GSU community.

GSU Newsroom: How did GSU prepare you for working in the post-COVID world?

Cornejo: I am more prepared for the time management required.

GSU Newsroom: What's next after graduation?

Cornejo: After graduation, I will be entering my first semester as a graduate student in GSU's Master of Business Administration program. During this program, I aim to take on new challenges that allow me to continue to develop the skills necessary to become a successful business professional.



Failure and Utopianism at the Semester's End: A Conversation with Christine Tarkowski

In anticipation of the May 19th event at the B. Harley Bradley House in Kankakee featuring the glass work of Christine Tarkowski, "Nate and Frank: Considering Glass," I sat down to speak with the artist about a range of topics related to her work, from Plato to Buckminster Fuller, medieval cathedrals to multiple moons, and all the "architectural junk" in between. Above all, our conversation centered on the dual narratives of "failure" and "optimism" in her work, especially in one piece that most visitors to GSU pass on a daily basis: *Working on a Failed Utopia* (2006).

The piece, situated right next to the main "D" building entrance to GSU, is in close dialogue with the university's campus architecture – much more so, Tarkowski explains, than the examples of "Land Art" that can be found throughout the rest of the sculpture park (like Mary Miss's *Field Rotation* or Martin Puryear's *Bodark Arc*). In fact, when the artist decided on the site for *Failed Utopia*, she wanted it to be "like another piece of architectural junk," referring to an old satellite dish nearby. According to Tarkowski, the geometry of Failed Utopia's geodesic dome, seen glowing as students head home at night, communicates a message of optimism and could be considered an emblem of "space travel and technologies, and all of these things that [the dome] embraces."

While Tarkowski's Failed Utopia is made of screen-printed rice paper and laminated fiberglass attached to a steel frame, it – like her glass work on view in Kankakee - relates to the role of glass in modern architecture. Although, as she notes, the fiberglass used in Failed Utopia is "more akin to stained glass, and more connected to medieval cathedrals" due to its faceted geometry and its ability to communicate meaning through the surface decoration, Tarkowski's piece connects to the rich history of twentieth-century utopian visions in name and in shape. The geodesic dome in particular is inextricably linked to Buckminster Fuller's futuristic designs of the 1950s, which influenced utopian architectural experiments for decades to come (like the so-called "Drop City," a psychedelics-driven, artist-hippie commune of geodesic dome shelters set up in a remote section of southern Colorado in the 1960s). Glass truly was the modernist and utopian material of choice, from the Crystal Palace of 1851, to Bruno Taut's illuminated Glass Pavilion of 1914, to Lyonel Feininger's woodcut of a shining Gothic cathedral made of glass-like fractured planes (an image used to adorn the cover of the Bauhaus Manifesto of 1919), to Frank Lloyd Wright's domestic architecture, in which decorative leaded glass ribbon windows played a key role in his vision for a "total work of art."

Stained glass in particular presents "a bridge between the public and the private," as Tarkowski described it; stained glass is often public, as in a church setting, but scale plays an important role. Her glass pieces that were installed in Millennium Park, for example, are modest in size as she notes, but when accumulated, "form a blanket over your head." The glass and copper pieces on display at the Bradley House, likewise, are quite small and delicate – "glass forms that have been blown into molds that reflect those platonic solids; the platonic solid





Photo above is the B. Harley Bradley House in Kankakee

Failed Utopia (2006)

being Plato's idea that the elements of the earth are represented in those [geometric] shapes – air, water, earth, fire – so that everything can be built from those forms."

Tarkowski has also named contemporary artist Robert Smithson as an influence, especially his idea of "ruins in reverse" explored in his various "non-sites," earthworks, and installations; Tarkowski even describes her own blown glass and molten copper pours as "still lifes of ruin": "I poured onto that molten glass and molten copper, almost pushing them back into non-functionality," she states. Robert Smithson's Map of Broken Glass (Atlantis) (1969), which—as you might imagine, based on the title—consists of a pile of glass shards exhibited on the gallery floor in the shape of the mythical lost island of Atlantis. Like Smithson, Tarkowski is interested in how materials (like glass) are liable to evolve - or devolve - over time and take on new forms while remaining essentially the same: "Glass is...elemental and foundational (...) it's more chthonic, like from below. Also you can reconstitute it, you can melt it down and reform it. It doesn't go to ashes, like a body. It's still itself." Fiberglass, on the other hand, "is kind of a god-less material," she notes.

Failure and Utopianism at the Semester's End: A Conversation with Christine Tarkowski

Continued from the previous page.

Light plays a significant role in her glass works as it does in *Failed Utopia*. When considering the role that the artificial lighting would play in the work, she wanted it to be like an "ephemeral event" akin to the act of a celestial body rising or setting. As she explains, "the first time I saw it illuminated, the moon was up and behind the dome, so it was like a second moon, another celestial object – like, wouldn't it be great if we had more moons?"

Working on the Failed Utopia is one of several works in theNate's collection that are especially prominent, seen as visitors approach campus. But the Failed Utopia seems to share much in common with another work in the collection from 2006: Tony Tasset's Paul.

Although *Failed Utopia* is abstract, architectural, and corresponds to the human scale and Paul is figurative, comically oversized, and full of Pop Art irony, both are passed by students daily, whether by car, walking, or coming from the Metra shuttle. Both also have an underlying dual narrative of "failure" and optimism.

At the end of the academic year, this dual narrative is even more significant considering the university setting, where students strive for success just as the cloud of potential failure looms over their heads, even though as faculty, we often remind students that failure is not only inevitable but actually helps us grow. In this context we see Paul – normally depicted as a brawny, upright lumberjack – exhausted and hunched over, a stand-in for students weighed down by final exams and late projects. And yet, *Paul* remains standing, an unofficial mascot of the university; *Failed Utopia*, according to Tarkowski, might be considered "a mascot for utopic ideals," even if – as she reminds us – "as soon as you call it a 'utopia' it's destined to fail."

But we likely don't need to remind students of "failure" now that grades are in. Instead, Tarkowski says, "it's about this transition – summertime – like, what do you do in the summer? What's the next step? Who's using the space?" These are questions worth pondering as we consider the purpose of architectural structures, like our campus buildings, or like the *Failed Utopia* dome itself, when the "user" is temporarily absent. But we can return to these kinds of philosophical questions in the fall when the academic year cycle begins again. After all, as the artist notes, "'Working on the Failed Utopia' means that it's still in progress."

~ Rebecca Siefert, Assistant Professor of Art History Contributing Writer











at theNate

18, 2022 · 1-6 p.r

Celebrate JUNETEENTH and the Summer Solstice at theNate

Join us on Saturday, June 18, 2022 from 12:30 to 6 p.m., mark your calendar!

<u>REGISTER</u> by June 10 for FREE BBQ by drewBBQ



The celebration is taking shape! Register early to make sure you get your complimentary BBQ – supplies are limited!

Our exciting line up will bring back the best parts of last year's event, with some new features sure to become favorites.

Outdoor promenade through theNate collection with:

- 12:30 1 p.m. Welcome and Information (F Entrance)
- 1 p.m. Lead processional to "Yes! For Lady Day"
- 1:30 2:30 p.m. Jazz performance and spoken word selection
- 2:30 3 p.m. Return to F Entrance for intermission
- 2:30 5:30 p.m. Free BBQ by drewBBQ register by June 10
- Gather at "Illinois Landscape, No. 5"
 ("French Fries") Jazz and Gospel performance
 with spoken word selection
- 4 5 p.m. Art Gallery open featuring "Explore. Play. Repeat." an MFA thesis exhibition by Heather Cox

NEW: musical selections by Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra

• **5 – 6 p.m.** Meet world-renowned artist Richard Hunt on a walking tour to see his art and other featured work in the collection

REGISTER here:

https://apply.govst.edu/register/Juneteenth2022

Visitors from last year will be happy to know that the program has a built-in intermission scheduled after the walk in the park. Restrooms in the GSU building's F Entrance are available throughout the event. The first part of the program is about an hour and a half out in the park.

Bring your own lawn chair, water bottle, shoes for walking in grass, umbrella for shade, sunscreen, and this year: **picnic gear** because there will be Texas style BBQ being served.

We are excited to share an exhibition in the Visual Arts Gallery, of **GSU Art Program's MFA recipient, Heather Cox.** Although her practice is mainly rooted in printmaking, Heather is exploring sculptural form with playful presentations that come off the wall and into the viewer's space and imagination.





Explore. Play. Repeat.

Visual Arts Gallery | Governors State University 1 University Parkway, University Park IL 60448

Sallery Hours: Mon – Thurs. 9am - 2pm or by appointment | artsgrad@govst.edu

Cox's intention is for th

the work and comfortable getting ing what they see with a naive curiobserver to feel comfortable walking

d floor where shadows emerge, or d surface to see what is hidden be

June 1st - June 28th, 2022

Artist Reception: Saturday, June 25, 2022 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm



AMBASSADORS FOR theNate

Join Us As A Volunteer!

Volunteering at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park is both productive and personally rewarding. We need assistance with mounting programs, events and activities, especially during our primary visitors' season of May through October. We utilize student volunteers to help with our annual fundraiser, community volunteers to assist with our Outdoors@theNATE school program, and Docent volunteers to assist with tours in the park - or let us know what you would like to do - join us!

As our lively group of volunteers, Ambassadors for theNate get an opportunity for socializing with other art lovers, over lunch or a glass of wine, while enjoying the collection. Many take pride in sharing theNate in their own community through organizations, family and friends by presenting videos or slide shows, or simply telling others about this treasure in our region. The more ambitious Ambassadors take the online course with GSU's Art Historian, Dr. Becky to earn a certificate and learn about theNate, modern and contemporary art in general.

Volunteers can customize their 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.

Contact Sherri Denault sdenault@govst.edu to find out more about volunteer opportunities at theNate.



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

- dors for theNate get an opportunity for:
- Service represent theNate in your community
- through family, friends, and organizations join some or all of our planned events,
- help park staff with school tours
- Elife-long learning
 engage with the history of theNate / Art
 engage with Dr. Becky through a free
 online course at your own pace



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.



For more information about volunteering or taking the course, con Sherri Denault, Education and Outreach Coordinator (email) sdenault@govst. JOIN Ambassadors for theNate!



Running Table, by Dan Peterman, is waiting to be installed. Weather and ground conditions in April prevented any work from being done. We are hopeful to move forward with the project very soon!

Otocast

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



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"**

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.





Sculpture, Wine & Dine, Gregg & Susette

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



www.govst.edu/sculpture

Support the Nate

New Acquisition Fund

(started by Paul and Linda Uzureau) Make a contribution to be a part of selecting the next artwork in the collection – with an eye toward

up-and-coming, artists of color, women, or underrepresented artists.

Lewis Manilow Common Ground Initiative Your gift will go towards outreach activities designed to address social justice through leveraging the mysteries of the collection.

Bill Dodd Memorial Prairie Restoration Fund Support the "Butterfly Ranch", a 12 acre project begun through a ComEd/Openlands grant and visionaries like you, who understand the importance of preserving natural native lands for educational purposes as well as to provide a sanctuary for our visitors to revive and refresh.

Outdoors@theNate Education Fund Your gift will make our dynamic, hands-on, school visits available to more students throughout or region.

theNate General Fund

Donate with confidence that your contribution will be used where it will make the biggest impact, making sure the #1 Sculpture Park in the country remains a free public resource, open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk.

Text "govst" to 44944 to receive a link. Click the link and select theNate item you wish to activate. Securely input your credit card information and amount of your gift.



Checks made payable to: GSU Foundation / theNate

Or go to: www.govst.edu/nmspdonation



"Stargazing with Contrails", 2021 by Terrence Karpowicz made possible by a generous gift from Paul and Linda Uzureau.





