

Art Ark 1981 (refabricated 2006)
Terrence Karpowicz (American, b. 1948)
weathered wood, steel and brass fittings
Gift of Morris Lipschultz
Collection of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park
1983.03

Terrence Karpowicz 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 Karpowicz's search for a personal aesthetic. The artist continues to value a supreme degree of craftsmanship coupled with an honest approach to his use of materials.

Building upon his Fulbright experience, Karpowicz created a series of works in the early 1980s made primarily of wood. Each possessed an interactive, kinetic component. Visitors were able to move and play with the carefully crafted and balanced works which established a level of understanding beyond their purely visual attributes.

Art Ark evolved from two threads of interest: during a stay at the Ox-Bow artists' colony in Saugatuck, Michigan, Karpowicz produced works he called "Vehicles for Transportation to the Afterlife." Somewhat coincidentally, he visited Egypt shortly thereafter and became fascinated by the ancient Egyptian preparation of the dead. His previous interest in the interactive possibilities of sculpture came together with these experiences.

He thought, "How wonderful might it be to create an object which a person could enter and actually move?" **Art Ark** is designed so that a person could sit on the lowest bar of the lattice at the open end and gently rock the structure back and forth.

In 2006, after the piece had spent 23 years outdoors, the artist graciously agreed to re-fabricate it. Visitors are no longer allowed to play inside the sculpture.