

2012

LandMarks, Summer 2012

Geoffrey Bates
Governors State University

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LandMarks

DIGITAL
Newsletter Summer 2012 Issue



 *Governors State University*

 NATHAN
MANILOW
SCULPTURE PARK



LandMarks

Newsletter Summer 2012 Issue



Solo Exhibition Series: Sophie Ryder's *Upside Down, Kneeling*

Robert and Karen Duncan, of Lincoln, Nebraska, have generously agreed to share *Upside Down, Kneeling* (2008), one of many works in their wide-ranging collection of contemporary art, with visitors to Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

The large-scale work by U.K. artist Sophie Ryder was installed in late April as the third edition of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park's rotating **Solo Exhibition Series**. As a Presenting Partner, **BMO Harris Bank** has helped establish a schedule which brings notable art and artists to the GSU campus for temporary exhibition. Ryder's is the third in the series which has included work by Icelandic sculptor Steinunn Thorarinsdottir and Chicago-based artist Neil Goodman (<http://govst.edu/sculpture/default.aspx?id=39245>).

Inside

- **Kids, Kolors & Kites flies high**
- **2012 Urban Art Odyssey planned**
- **Volunteer to Reclaim the Prairie!**

Ryder's early works that incorporated the hare image were molded of bronze. By the early 1990s she had built a reputation for crafting compositions which brought together a recurring cast of characters. Human scaled Lady Hares, Minotaurs, dogs and horses all populated a variety of complex compositions and delivered international recognition to the artist.

She began to challenge herself by creating oversized figures constructed of bound wire, a technique which is physically very demanding. Ryder demonstrates remarkable finesse and sensitivity to form as she molds her oversized figures. The artworks deliver a series of surprises: from a distance, they appear to be quite solid, perhaps carved from granite. As the viewer approaches the surface dissolves into a riot of line. And then, finally, if a viewer chooses to enter the pathway between the two halves of *Upside Down, Kneeling*, they experience the landscape from the inside out.

Sophie Ryder makes her home at Lampit's Farm in the United Kingdom. She is represented by Osborne Samuel Gallery in Britain and The Contessa Gallery in the United States.

Solo Exhibition Series: Sophie Ryder's *Upside Down, Kneeling* will be on view at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park through October 31 of this year.



Above: Ryder's *Upside Down, Kneeling* is available for viewing from dawn until dusk through October 31. It has been sited in a meadow that is located directly across the lake from the main GSU buildings. Bottom Left: Insight into the artist's construction method is available by walking between the two halves of the sculpture. Bottom Right: Dancing a fine line between solidity and translucency with its wire construction method, *Upside Down, Kneeling* provides a textbook example of how line alone can be used to develop volume and mass within a form. All photos: Geoff Bates

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ReMarks

Now is one of the best times to visit your sculpture park.

Trees are lush with the fullness of summer's promise and provide cooling shade near many of our works. Bluebirds have taken advantage of a series of houses placed strategically throughout the landscape. In fact, last year the park fledged 23 of these colorful summer residents. Their distinctive flashing brilliance, as they dart back and forth gathering food for their young, punctuates your view as you stroll from sculpture to sculpture. During twilight hours, as the landscape cools, our open spaces ring with a near-cacophony of birdsong.

If you visit regularly, you clearly understand the value of this very special place that has been set aside for art and nature here at Governors State University. We who administer the public spaces in the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park appreciate your interest and involvement. It is you for whom we work to improve spaces and present unique opportunities to experience the park and its diverse holdings.

If you like what is happening here at the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, join the over 200 other folks and organizations who make up our Pathfinders group. You'll experience innovative programming set within our dramatic landscape while helping us to expand our outreach and conservation efforts, be eligible for discounts on exceptional travel values such as our **Urban Art Odyssey** (page 7), and be the first to receive information about limited ticket events like **Carts & Cocktails** (page 9).

If you haven't established a membership with this rapidly growing organization, please join over 200 other Pathfinders and become a member of our group. You'll experience innovative programming and experiences with our art and landscape while helping us to enlarge our outreach and conservation efforts. Details can be found at our website by clicking on *Support the Park* and choosing *Become a Pathfinder*.

Thank you for your participation in the life of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park – best wishes for a pleasant summer season!

See you in the park –

Geoffrey Bates
Director and Curator

Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Board

Geoffrey Bates, Director and Curator

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Website: www.govst.edu/sculpture
General Email Address: sculpture@govst.edu
Phone: 708.534.4486 Fax: 708.534.8959
Hours: Dawn until dusk every day
Admission: Free admission to park, some activities have fees.

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Please direct questions or comments to Geoffrey Bates, Director and Curator

Photo Above: **Frame**, Richard Rezac (2005)
Photo Below: **Lanleff Demeure No. 4**, Henri Etienne-Martin (1961)
Cover Photo: Late afternoon sun highlights Sophie Ryder's
Upside Down, Kneeling (2008)
Photos: Geoff Bates
Photo of Geoff Bates: Susan Bates



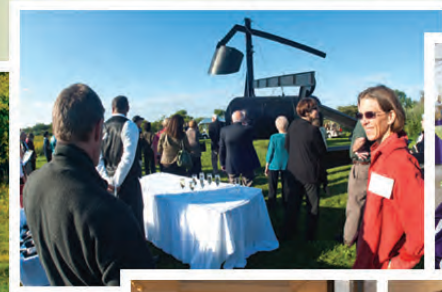
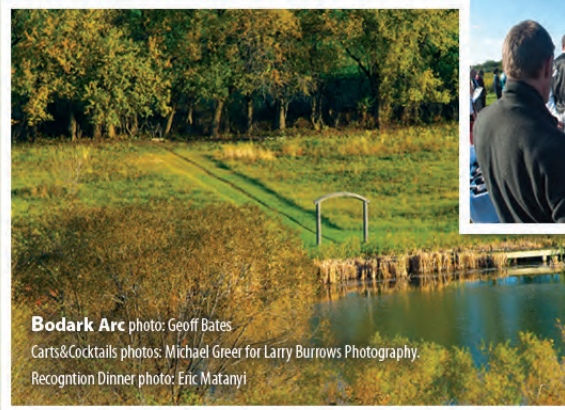
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Investigate our world – be a Pathfinder!

How many museums can you visit as many times as you like with no entry or parking fee? How many provide a glorious outdoor setting, the chance to encounter a doe and her fawn, or the opportunity to experience some of the best of nature and art in a beautifully maintained setting?

Invest in a **Pathfinders** membership and you'll know you're supporting programming, outreach, and conservation efforts which benefit not only you but GSU students, neighboring communities, and the region-at-large. Plus, you'll receive **LandMarks**, invitations to events, and discounts on special activities such as our **Art Odyssey**.

It's easy to become a **Pathfinder** today! Visit the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park website www.govst.edu/sculpture, click on **Support the Park** and choose **Become a Pathfinder**.



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News from the Park

Bates delivers keynote address at Sarasota symposium

Season of Sculpture presents changing exhibitions of large scale work along the beachfront in Sarasota, Florida. NMSP Director and Curator Geoffrey Bates delivered the afternoon keynote address to the first Season of Sculpture symposium in April. Bates spoke on "The Enduring Role of Sculpture in the Public Realm" and touched on aspects of selected historical and contemporary works as he built a case for support of the public presentation of sculpture. The event was hosted by the **John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art** and participants from throughout the region spent the day considering "Why Sculpture Matters."

NMSP artist John Henry (*Illinois Landscape No. 5*) joins Director Bates at a reception following the day's activities. Henry delivered the morning address to the Season of Sculpture group.



WTTW's Chicago Tonight features Manilow Park

Viewers of WTTW's Chicago Tonight were treated to a springtime introduction to the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park on April 10. The segment featured Bates providing a brief overview of the park's holdings and history and captured the expansive nature of the GSU campus. The piece is archived at chicagotonight.wttw.com/2012/04/10/manilow-sculptures on the Chicago Tonight website, which also displays a slideshow and a link to *Experiencing the Park*, the NMSP-produced video from 2008.

Landscape improvements continue

Building on drainage improvements made to pathways over the past several years, Kevin Barto, Superintendent of Grounds, has worked with his crew to address several areas within the park which impeded both pedestrian and vehicular travel. "Recognizing the growing importance of the park to the profile of GSU, we continue to fine tune the landscape experience for our visitors," Barto remarked.



Docents Jill Stanley (pushing sculpture), Maureen Cribbs, and Myisha Meeks interact with the crew from WTTW's Chicago Tonight.



John Henry photo: Susan McLeod
Chicago Tonight photo: Eric Matanyi
Landscape photo: Geoff Bates



Kids, Kolors & Kites

Successfully Kicks off Summer of Sculpture 2012

Happy faces tell the story. Our first Kids, Kolors, & Kites event was a great success, with nearly 50 kids, parents, and NMSP docents spending a great afternoon designing and flying kites alongside John Henry's **Illinois Landscape No. 5**. If you missed out on this genuine family event, think about stopping by for Sculpture Rocks! Sunday, July 15. Find the details in our Activities in the Park listings on page 8.



LandMarks



Urban Art Odyssey

Thursday & Friday, September 20-21, 2012
FEE: \$270 per person, double-occupancy, \$370 single
Pathfinders: \$225 per person, double occupancy, \$325 single
Deadline for reservations and fees: Friday, August 17
Contact Gina Ragland-Owolabi at 708.235.7559 to make your reservation. Registration form is attached to this file.



Venture into under-recognized arts centers. Visit exclusive collections. Confront contemporary art.

This year's **Urban Art Odyssey** builds on past successes by presenting outstanding experiences during a quick overnight trip into the heart of Chicago. Thursday's itinerary will take us first to the DuSable Museum of African American History, where we'll view **Buried Treasures: Art in African American Museums**, an exhibition of nearly 90 works drawn from museums throughout the United States. After a short ride, we'll drop in on the **Zhou Brothers Art Center**. This vibrant hothouse for new art and young artists is ground zero for the growing south loop art scene and has a challenging schedule of exhibitions plus four floors of artists' studios.

Our overnight accommodations have been arranged at the Union League Club of Chicago. Voted America's #1 City Club in 2009, the **Union League Club of Chicago** (ULCC) possesses one of the most extensive and distinguished collections of art in the city. After checking in, we will enjoy a cocktail reception and tour of the club's collection. Dinner will be on your own, either at one of the ULCC dining rooms or the many notable restaurants in the Loop and South Loop area.

Friday will close with a visit to the **Museum of Contemporary Art's** illuminating exhibition **Skyscraper: Art and Architecture Against Gravity**. We will return to GSU by 7 p.m.

Your fee includes travel by motorcoach, all admission fees, overnight accommodations, cocktail reception with open bar, tours of exhibitions at the DuSable and MCA, tour of the Union League Club of Chicago's art collection, and a VIP introduction to EXPOChicago/2012.

Seats are limited to 45 travelers so please do not wait to make your reservation.



Registration Form

Challenge your expectations of what art can be and join us for our **Urban Art Odyssey 2012** into the heart of Chicago.

Your fee will include:

- Round trip luxury motorcoach service from University Park.
- All admission fees.
- Guided tour of **Buried Treasure: Art in African American Museums** at the DuSable Museum of African American History.
- Open studio tour of the Zhou Bros. Art Center
- Overnight accommodations at Chicago's Union League Club with guided tour of the collection and exclusive cocktail reception.
- VIP introductory tour of EXPOChicago 2012, the nation's newest international art fair.
- Guided tour of Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art's **Skyscraper: Art and Architecture Against Gravity**

Contact **Gina Ragland-Owolabi** at **708.235.7559** with questions or to complete phone registration.

You may return your registration form via email to gragland-owolabi@govst.edu

FEES:

Pathfinders \$225 per person, double occupancy \$325 for single occupancy

Non-Pathfinders \$270 per person, double occupancy \$370 for single occupancy

Please make me a Pathfinder and send me a list of benefits! \$40 per person _____ people = \$_____

All registration and Pathfinders' fees are due no later than Friday, August 17.

I'm paying by check.

Please charge my deposit/fee of \$_____ to :

Visa Mastercard Discover

Account Number

Exp. Date ____/____/____ Security Code

Authorized Cardholder's Name (as it appears on card, please print)

Signature _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone ____/____/____

Home E-Mail _____

Business Name _____

Work Phone ____/____/____

I plan to share a room with: _____



Activities in the Park

Summer is here! Along with the ongoing presentation of *Upside Down, Kneeling*, we have a variety of events and programs planned for our Season of Sculpture – 2012. Mark these dates on your calendar and pay us a visit!



Financial support from Pathfinders of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park helps make our Summer of Sculpture 2012 activities possible – Thank You!



SOS2012 **Sculpture ROCKS!**

Sunday, July 15
2 – 5 p.m. (note time change)
FREE Admission
Sculpture materials - \$5

Our sculpture booth at **Summer Sol-a-Bration 2010** was one of the busiest spots in the entire event! Spend the afternoon visiting, then responding to our collection by creating your own sculpture. We'll supply the materials – you supply the creativity. Docents will be on hand to provide guidance both on our paths and with your artwork. No experience required!

SOS2012

Welcome to the Park!

Welcome Days for GSU Students
Tuesday, August 21
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
FREE

Governors State University's Student Services and the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park are teaming to host *Welcome to the Park!*, a group of activities highlighting opportunities for students to take advantage of the NMSP and its activities. Docents and park staff will provide informal golf cart tours of the park and be available with materials and information for incoming students.

Plan to have some fun in the park!

SOS2012

Carts & Cocktails

Sunday, September 8
3 – 6 p.m.
Tickets: \$100
Limited ticketing.

Contact 708.534.4848 to reserve and purchase tickets.

Join us as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the installation of Martin Puryear's **Bodark Arc** with the 2nd edition of this popular event. We'll gather under a tent on the lake patio for drinks and hors d'oeuvres, then trundle out into the park on chauffeured golf carts to visit several artworks, including the poetic landscape-scaled *Bodark Arc* by National Medal of Arts awardee Puryear.



Reclaim the Prairie!

Sunday, November 11
2 – 5 p.m.
FREE Admission
Hall of Governors patio
Please **RSVP** your attendance to 708.534.4486

Did you ever want to feel like a farmer – without the responsibility? Join us for our first-ever volunteer effort to enlarge our prairie plantings. Families with children of all ages will gather on the Hall of Governors patio for a brief orientation to our prairie, then fan out across the landscape, guided by docents, to harvest and sow prairie grass and other native seeds. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY**, and we'll even provide some light refreshments at the conclusion of the afternoon!

Carts&Cocktails photo: Paul Uzureau
Sculpture Rocks! photo: Sam Hall, Jr.

