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LandMarks, Summer 2013

Geoffrey Bates
Governors State University

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LandMarks

DIGITAL
Newsletter Summer 2013 Issue



NATHAN MANILOW 35
SCULPTURE PARK YEARS

LandMarks

Newsletter Summer 2013 Issue



Illinois Landscape No. 5 conserved

Illinois Landscape No. 5, John Henry's iconic, early site-specific work, is once again a bright signal for visitors approaching the Governors State University campus from the east. Conservation was conducted from May 31 through June 14. The piece was first cleaned, then rusted scrapes were ground and overcoated with rust-resistant primer. It received two coats of defense department marine-grade polysiloxane paint and two UV-resistant clear coats. Funding for the project came from the prudent stewardship of monies invested in the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park via donation and corporate sponsorship, Pathfinder memberships, and special events over the past six years.

"This is another important piece of the revitalization of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park," said Geoffrey Bates, Director and Curator. "And we have our many supporters to thank."

Henry's piece had needed attention for some time. "What little paint that remained had faded to a chalky buttercream. It was critical that we restore this piece, which now sets up a dynamic dialogue with Yvonne Domenge's **Windwaves** and acts as the entré to the university's east campus and newly renovated science wing," Bates said.

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During an interview with the artist in April, 2012, John Henry provided insight into the character of the piece. "Most of my pieces, large pieces, in those days were horizontal," Henry recalled. "I wasn't really building vertical pieces. And some of them were really, really low to the ground and almost... well, it was very difficult for people to grasp them as sculpture, you know, 'cause these things would just crawl along the surface of the ground."

Illinois Landscape No. 5 is a prime example of this sort of composition. With its dominating size and, now, its restored Signal yellow hue, it acts as a landmark for anyone walking the north section of the park as it dances across the knoll near to the F-Wing entry.



Above: Goins used an MBX grinder to remove rust from throughout the piece. He then "striped" and over-coated the entire artwork with rust resistant primer. He can be seen here applying the first coat of the Signal yellow hue chosen by the artist.



Above: Madison Coatings' Gary Goins conducted the work on **Illinois Landscape No. 5**. Goins began by powerwashing the entire surface of the sculpture, removing the chalky residue of paint present since its last painting in 1997. Note the pale buttercream hue.

See more photos of the restoration project on the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Facebook page.

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ReMarks

First and foremost, if you are someone who has invested in Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, thank you. You're directly responsible for enabling us to pull the trigger and commit to conserving **Illinois Landscape No. 5**. The artwork fairly glows with its new, high-chroma Signal yellow hue, and provides an exclamation point as students, staff, and guests arrive on campus.

A presence at GSU since the groundbreaking exhibition The Sculptor, the Campus, and the Prairie in 1975, the artwork is inextricably linked to thousands of students' experience of the university. Whether you like it, understand it, call it French Fries, or dismiss it, it has been an important part of the visual culture of GSU. *"Are there plans to renovate Illinois Landscape No. 5 to the glorious color I remember in its original years when I was there? It is one of my favorites!"* wrote Dorothy Sherman, a 1977 alum, in April. Well, Dorothy, thanks to you and others like you, we did it.

While this is a major milestone, it's not just the fact that we've painted a sculpture that makes this an important moment. The park organization has worked steadily to conserve and present to best advantage at least one artwork per year for the past four years. **Spiral, Icarus, House Divided**, and now **Illinois Landscape No. 5** have all benefitted from its dedication to renewal. The board of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park takes seriously this charge to care for the work in our collection. When we ask people to invest in the park, we let them know it will be used to *"support cultural and educational events, in the conservation of artworks, and to develop public awareness of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, its collection, and its programming."*

We will continue to honor that pledge as we embark on our next 35 years. Please join us and give generously so that we can build on our past success and look to a bright future.

See you in the park –

Geoffrey Bates
Director and Curator

Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Board

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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.

LandMarks is printed once a year, distributed digitally 2 times a year.

Please make sure we have your current, correct email address.

Send a message with "LandMarks Address" in the subject heading to sculpture@govst.edu

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

On cover: **Illinois Landscape No. 5** 1975, John Henry, Commissioned by the GSU Foundation, Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park with assistance from the National Endowment for the Arts

Top of page: Gary Goins rolls the first coat of Signal yellow onto the primed artwork.

Bottom of page: Gary Goins is dwarfed by monumental steel elements as he powerwashes the artwork in preparation for conservation.

All photos in this issue, unless otherwise noted: Geoffrey Bates

Photo top right: Susan Bates

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www.govst.edu/sculpture

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A Good Investment

The board of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park extends its sincere appreciation to everyone who has contributed to its programming and conservation efforts over the past six years. Not only have you made the renewal of John Henry's **Illinois Landscape No. 5** possible, your investment in the health of this cultural asset will pay dividends for years to come in the experience of future students as they encounter our collection on a daily basis, in the manner with which our public interacts with the park, and as the park organization fulfills its mission to *"serve its constituency with distinctive educational outreach and original programming - encouraging an interdisciplinary understanding and appreciation of sculpture and art in contemporary life."*

Please click here to donate now and help us continue our work of renewal.

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Contributions to the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park at any level are greatly appreciated. Your tax deductible contribution will be used to support events, in the conservation of artworks, and to develop public awareness of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, its collection, and its programming.

Naming opportunities are available. Please contact Geoffrey Bates, Director and Curator, at gbates@govst.edu or 708.534.4848 for more information.



Upcoming Events

Carts & Cocktails

Saturday, September 21, 2013
3 to 6 p.m.
\$100 per person

On the lower patio behind the Hall of Governors, D-Wing
Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres, Sweets

Carts & Cocktails is an annual benefit fundraiser for Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. Carts & Cocktails 2013 will celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the park and recognize the 30th Anniversary of the installation of **House Divided**, Bruce Nauman's spare 1983 masterwork. One of America's most thought-provoking contemporary artists, Nauman represented the U.S. in a solo presentation at the 2009 Venice Biennale in Venice, Italy.

3:00 Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres
4:00 Remarks – Guest Speaker, **Rick Kogan**
4:30 Tour to **House Divided** and other sculptures
5:30 Dessert

For sponsorship and ticket information:

Gina Ragland — 708.235.7559 • www.govst.edu/sculpture

Comfortable shoes are recommended.



Jim Ternig, GSU graduate student in Biology, harvests seed during last year's Reclaim the Prairie! Photo Credit: Cherie Garey

Reclaim the Prairie!

Sunday, October 27, 2013

1 to 4 p.m.
Meet in the Cafeteria Annex, D-Wing
For Families
\$5 Adults, \$3 Children

Join us for the second annual Reclaim the Prairie! event – a family-oriented afternoon of environmental activity. Kids will learn about prairie restoration, receive a coloring book and crayons, and enjoy a sense of accomplishment while helping our planet and the park. Adults will enjoy learning how to identify, harvest, and sow prairie flora. If you can pick a flower and rub it between your fingers, you can do this!

Reservations requested – contact 708.534.4486 to make your reservation (limit of 30).

Welcome Days Pizza Party

On the 2nd floor patio above the Cafeteria Annex
FREE with GSU Student ID
Watch our website for day and date

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park will welcome students new and old to the campus with a Pizza Party overlooking the lake and park. Stop by, grab a slice or two, join our trivia contest, and receive a sculpture park thermal lunch bag (quantities limited).

