# EXPLORER'S GUIDE SEWARD JOHNSON

#### Celebrating a Groundbreaking and Truly Creative Life

Artwork created by Grounds For Sculpture's founder Seward Johnson can be found throughout the grounds. Seward Johnson believed in the joy of discovery, consider the following as you take a closer look at his artworks.

"I want my work to disappear into the landscape and then take a viewer by surprise. After he gets over the shock of being fooled, it becomes an emotional discovery. Then he owns the sculpture. People often revisit their favorites. They become like friends."

- Seward Johnson

Drawing of Seward Johnson's sculpture Out To Lunch



### **OBSERVE**

What about the sculpture or your path to the sculpture took you by surprise?

Where are the figures in the sculpture looking and what do they see?

What looks real and what looks imaginary about the sculpture? About the landscape?

## **REFLECT & SHARE**

Imagine if the figures in the sculpture came to life - what question would you ask them?

What moment in time would you like to freeze?

TOP PHOTO: Seward Johnson, *God Bless America*, cast aluminum, 168 x 108 x 70 inches, ©2005, 2012 The Seward Johnson Atelier, Photo: David Michael Howarth Photography BOTTOM: Seward Johnson sculpting the head of Hoagy Carmichael - Seward Johnson, *My Sixteen-Year-Old Jazz Dreams*, cast bronze, 72 x 252 x 168 inches, ©2016 The Seward Johnson Atelier, Inc., Photo: Paula Stoeke



#### Curious about Seward Johnson?

Seward Johnson was born in New Jersey and is famous worldwide for his figurative sculptures. Seward Johnson's artworks are exhibited internationally and are included in private collections, museums, and public art collections too numerous to mention. Spurred to strengthen communities through art, Seward Johnson built an international community of artists with the Johnson Atelier. He went on to create Grounds For Sculpture, a wondrous place for interdisciplinary engagement with art, nature, music and dance. Grounds For Sculpture opened to the public in 1992 on the site of the former New Jersey State Fairgrounds. In 2014, he was added to the New Jersey Hall of Fame and in 2019 received the Lifetime Achievement in Contemporary Sculpture Award from the International Sculpture Center.