



SPRING / SUMMER 2022

# NEWSCASTING

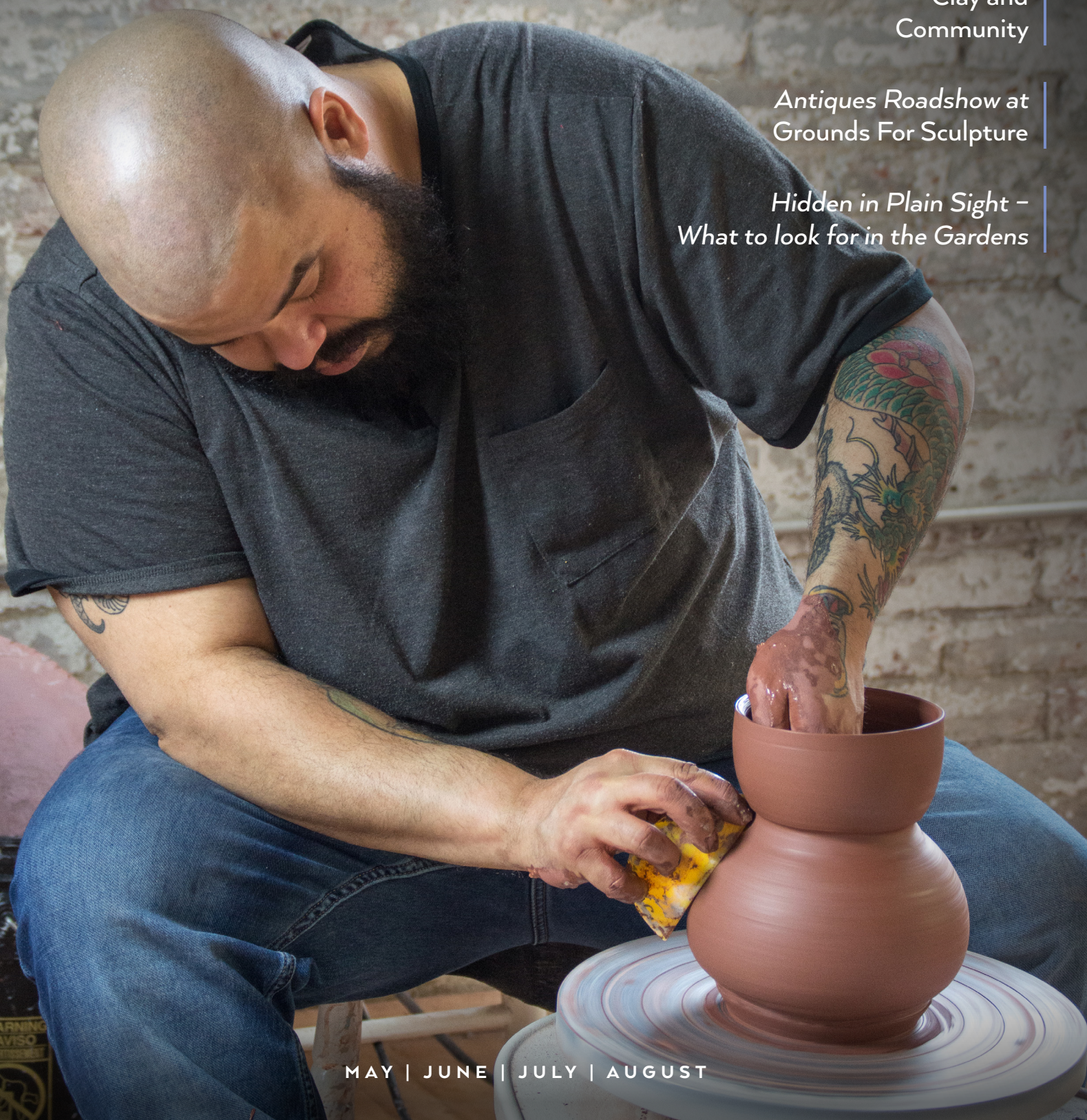
*Grounds For Sculpture's publication for members and volunteers*

***Roberto Lugo: The Village Potter and Fragile: Earth***

Clay and  
Community

Antiques Roadshow at  
Grounds For Sculpture

Hidden in Plain Sight -  
What to look for in the Gardens



MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUGUST



# WELCOME

Dear Members,

One of my goals for 2022 is to share updates on the tangible ways your support is making a difference to Grounds For Sculpture. The GFS team and I frequently reflect about how fortunate we are to be able to do the work we do to serve our community and region. The reason we can is because of you and supporters like you. Here is just a sampling of the ways you have helped us this year already.

### Access

GFS is dedicated to fostering a culture of inclusion that reaches out and warmly welcomes in. As you may recall, last year we joined the NJ Families First Discovery Pass program and will continue this commitment for the future, providing free entrance to anyone receiving state assistance. Building upon this goal, at the beginning of this year GFS joined the Art-Reach ACCESS Program, a public initiative that empowers those individuals and families who come from a low-income household, or those with disabilities, to engage with arts and culture in the Greater Philadelphia region at a rate they can afford. Through ACCESS, GFS now provides up to 4 free daytime admission tickets per reservation, continuing our focus on accessibility and art for all.

### Supporting Artists

Thanks to you, GFS can build on our history of supporting artists to envision and create ambitious new work, pushing boundaries of what is possible, and challenging perceptions.

Your support has enabled us to bring ceramicist Roberto Lugo here on campus this March and April for an artist's residency. We built a studio in our Museum Building for him to create exciting new work (and soon, that space will be set up for the public to try their own hand at pottery-making). Roberto has also been creating a monumental piece in collaboration with our colleagues at The Seward Johnson Atelier and the Digital Atelier next door. You can see some of the behind the scenes footage from the residency on GFS's [Instagram](#) account as well as quite a bit on Roberto Lugo's [Instagram](#) account. I encourage you to check it out.

*Roberto Lugo: The Village Potter and Fragile: Earth*, our concurrent ceramics exhibition in partnership with The Color Network, both open to the public on May 22nd (with your Member Preview Day on Saturday, May 21!). Thank you for helping to make this possible, and we do hope you'll come out see it in person.

With gratitude,



**Gary Garrido Schneider**  
Executive Director



PS I'd also like to share our just published [2021 Year in Review](#), full of statistics and highlights from last year.

## HOURS THIS SEASON

- Open 10AM-6PM, Wednesday-Monday (through May 29, 2022)
- Open daily 10AM-6PM (May 30-September 4)
- Late Nights: 10AM-9PM, Friday-Sunday (May 6-September 4)
- Member Mornings: Members-only hours 8-10AM, every Saturday & Sunday (May 7-September 4)

Members visit spontaneously without reservation on weekdays. Free reservation required on weekends and holidays to ensure your desired entry time.

### RESERVE YOUR VISIT:

[groundsforsculpture.org/hours-admission-directions](https://www.groundsforsculpture.org/hours-admission-directions)

Explore Grounds For Sculpture's collection of 400+ works on our website [groundsforsculpture.org](https://www.groundsforsculpture.org) and our interactive map [gfsmap.org](https://www.gfsmap.org), which features sculpture and horticulture throughout the grounds as well as an audio tour [gfsmap.org/audio-tour](https://www.gfsmap.org/audio-tour). View new [self-guided activities](#) to enhance your next visit.

Discover something new or learn more about a longtime favorite!

### SIGN UP FOR GFS E-NEWS:

[bit.ly/2Qhyen2](https://bit.ly/2Qhyen2)



### ACCESS MOBILE CART RETURNS

The Access Mobile Cart is back! The Access Mobile Cart offers a 45-minute tour for visitors with limited mobility. The cart can accommodate a maximum of five people or four people and a wheelchair. Advance reservations are highly recommended (offered at 11am, 12pm, 2pm + 3pm).

Cover Photo: Roberto Lugo, photo courtesy of the artist, photo: Meghan Tranauskas;  
Aerial photo of Grounds For Sculpture

# MEMBER EVENTS

## MEMBER MORNINGS

*Every Saturday + Sunday, 8am (May 7-Sept 4)*

Every Saturday and Sunday from Mother's Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend, members are granted exclusive early access to the grounds at 8AM and may stay as long as they wish. Enjoy a quiet start to your day and catch the morning light at GFS before the general public is admitted. At GFS, we believe visiting an oasis of beauty, where art and imaginatively landscaped gardens awaken the senses, enhances well-being, and stimulates reflection.

**Reserve your visit:** [groundsforsculpture.org/timed-admission-tickets](https://www.groundsforsculpture.org/timed-admission-tickets)

## MEMBER HAPPY HOURS

*Fridays, 5-8 pm  
(May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2)*

### Acer Courtyard (Rain: Van Gogh Café & Patio)

Join us for themed Member Happy Hours on the first Friday of each month May-September! Meet and mingle with other GFS Members over specially curated food and beverage. This event is free for all GFS Members to attend. Food and beverage a la carte, with Member discount pricing. Stop by spontaneously, as Member reservations are not required to visit GFS on weekdays! Future members welcome with park admission.



## FAMILY OPEN STUDIOS

*First Saturday of each month, 11am-3pm*

### FREE for Members

This drop-in themed art-making workshop invites all ages to create together.

For more information or to register for any of the listed events, call **609.586.0616** or visit [groundsforsculpture.org](https://www.groundsforsculpture.org)

**Business Members** – Reach out to **Karen Hollywood** | Director of Corporate and Foundation Engagement, [khollywood@groundsforsculpture.org](mailto:khollywood@groundsforsculpture.org), with questions. For ticket reservation questions call: 609.586.0616, live chat on [groundsforsculpture.org](https://www.groundsforsculpture.org) or email: [tickets@groundsforsculpture.org](mailto:tickets@groundsforsculpture.org)

## MEMBER PREVIEW DAY

*Saturday, May 21, 8am-4pm*

Member Preview Day is an exclusive opportunity for GFS Members to be among the first to explore the new season and exhibitions *Roberto Lugo: The Village Potter* and *Fragile: Earth*. Join us and participate in a variety of unique programming specifically designed to engage and inspire you! Member Preview Day highlights include:

- Exclusive first access to the new exhibitions
- Meet the Artists and Curators
- Art-making activities and demos
- Horticulture Tours

### View the Program Schedule:

[groundsforsculpture.org/member-preview-day-2](https://www.groundsforsculpture.org/member-preview-day-2)

## GFS FAMILY BREAKFAST

*Saturday, July 23, 10am-12pm*

Calling all members at membership levels Family, Family Plus, Contributor, Sustainer, and Benefactor! Enjoy breakfast and explore family-focused activities connected to artwork currently on view. Program registration required at [groundsforsculpture.org](https://www.groundsforsculpture.org) starting in June.

## MEMBER DISCOUNTS IN THE MUSEUM SHOP

GFS Members enjoy 10% off all merchandise in the Museum Shop. Be sure to show your eMembership card at check-out. Member Monthly Specials:

- May: 15% off all Puzzles
- June: 15% off all GFS Short-Sleeved T-Shirts and Baseball Hats
- July: 15% off all GFS Long-Sleeved T-Shirts
- August: 15% off select Seasonal Items

## MEMBER DISCOUNTS ON DINING

Members enjoy 10% off dining at the Van Gogh Café and Rat's Restaurant. Be sure to show your eMembership card at check-out or to your server.

**View Rat's Hours:** [ratsrestaurant.com](https://www.ratsrestaurant.com)

## GIFT MEMBERSHIP

GFS Membership is the gift that lasts all year, sparking the imagination and encouraging wellness through art and nature.

**To give a gift of GFS Membership, visit:** [bit.ly/join-gfs](https://bit.ly/join-gfs)





## ANTIQUES ROADSHOW AT GFS

In October 2021, Grounds For Sculpture hosted PBS while they filmed three new episodes of Antiques Roadshow from the grounds. The air dates for the three episodes are April 11, April 25 and May 2, 2022, 8PM EST.

View schedule: [pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/schedule](https://pbs.org/wgbh/roadshow/schedule)



## MEMBER'S SNEAK PEEK

On March 11, Members enjoyed an exclusive opportunity to meet master ceramicist, performance artist, and educator Roberto Lugo during his residency at GFS. Lugo spoke with Members about his work, process, inspirations, and plans for his upcoming exhibition in the Museum Building, *Roberto Lugo: The Village Potter*.



## DIGITAL MEMBER LOUNGE

View artist talks and videos from the archives, and more! Stop by the Digital Member Lounge: [groundsfor Sculpture.org/digital-member-lounge](https://groundsfor Sculpture.org/digital-member-lounge)



## NIGHT FORMS: DREAMLOOP BY KLIP COLLECTIVE

Thank you for coming out to experience *Night Forms: dreamloop*, and for sharing the excitement of this brand new, after-hours exhibition with your networks. *Night Forms* created an entirely unique way to experience the sculptures and horticulture at GFS. GFS has been delighted to host over 47,000 viewers to the special, after-hours exhibition since it opened in November, with 55% being first-time visitors to GFS!

## BANK OF AMERICA

*Thank you to Night Forms lead sponsor Bank of America and the following Exhibition Supporters: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Capital Health System, Geoscape, NJM Insurance Group, NRG, the Atlantic Foundation, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.*

Stay tuned for more information on Night Forms 2022 Member Pre-Sale dates.



### CHILDREN'S BOOK LIST

*Enhance your visits to GFS –  
Explore these books together!*

*Another*  
by Christian Robinson

*A Picnic with Monet*  
by Julie Merberg

*Enchanting Creatures*  
by Camilla de la Bedoyere

*Linnea in Monet's Garden*  
by Christina Björk

### WHAT GFS VOLUNTEERS ARE READING

*The Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary  
Tale of Gustav Klimt's Masterpiece,  
Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer*  
by Anne-Marie O'Connor

*The Nature of Nature:  
Why We Need the Wild*  
by Enric Sala

## BECOME A GFS VOLUNTEER

Spend more time at grounds surrounded by beautiful scenery and inspiring sculptures as a volunteer! GFS seeks enthusiastic volunteers to assist with workshops and tours, act as park guides, work in the gardens and help in a variety of other roles. Learn more: [groundsfor Sculpture.org/volunteer](https://groundsfor Sculpture.org/volunteer)



## Hidden In Plain Sight

Olga Dytyniak | GFS Volunteer Docent

To be a horticulturist at our Grounds requires four things: a knowledge and expertise in working with ornamental plants and trees, innovative landscaping and gardening techniques, an artistic aesthetic, and passion. To our good fortune, our staff, Head Horticulturist Janis Napoli, and her trusty assistant Cat Swiderski, possess all those qualities in spades, pardon the pun!

The great beauty of their labor can be seen everywhere, and it is no small thing to work in concert with Mother Nature herself. But, if you think you've seen it all, think again, for Grounds For Sculpture has many secrets to disclose, both in the artwork, and in the living collection as well. We invite you to visit our Horticulture exhibition on view in the Education Gallery from March through September. It is located to your left at the entrance of the Welcome Center across from the Museum Shop. There, some of our most beautiful and rare secrets are shared with you, in the form of sculptural and artistic displays of our living collections.

Currently, there are many unusual branches, cones, seed pods, and dried flowers as well as blossoming branches from shrubs and trees. The exhibit will be ever-changing as the weeks go by to show off our best and most interesting fineries for your visits. As you enter the gallery, on your left is a lovely antique white birdcage which shares the delights of a variety of succulents, cacti and epiphytes and is followed by dried flowers that show blooms may change over time, but never lose their loveliness. "Garden Interest" stars a tiny Ruby-Throated Hummingbird's nest found on our grounds. Can you imagine the size of the eggs?

Further down is an array of the branches and cones of evergreens. Particularly striking is the horizontal birch limb hung from the ceiling adorned with suspended specimens, a great home decorating idea! This is where the

beautiful branch of the Himalayan Pine, with its yellow-banded light green needles 6" long or longer and its 10" cone reside. Can you guess why the cultivar name 'Zebrina' was given to this tree? (answer below) Don't miss the Hardy Citrus branches or the Tumbleweed Onion, two of my favorites. Visitors always want to know the identity of this striking flower head in bloom. The flowers remind me of an explosion of fireworks. Look for them outside in the late spring to early summer, and then again in the fall when they are dry. They are rich in beauty both ways.

"**Foraging for a Tea Party**" gives detailed information for brewing teas with health benefits. You can learn how to harvest and dry flowers and seed pods... some of the many surprising gifts from Mother Nature's pharmacy.

As the displays change with the seasons, there will always be something new for you to discover. On the back wall of the gallery look for the flower board called "**In the Garden**" to see what is currently blooming on our Grounds. There are live cuttings to help you recognize them while strolling our bountiful acres. We invite you to take a photo with your phone so you can refer back to both the appearance and identification. You may be inspired to plant your own at home. But please do not remove any green material while you visit. Help us keep our grounds beautiful for all to admire!

As you make your turn, the first piece that will be seen is a very sculptural, curving, wood-like Trumpet Vine, within which wasps have chosen to build a nest 12 inches in diameter. Further down the vine on the left side, you will see a seed pod still hanging from this beautiful plant. Then, make sure to look at the succulent garden to admire the rich mosaic of lush diversity. Succulents are drought-tolerant plants that are increasingly recognized as a resource to mitigate the consequences of climate change. Amazing! And, they are not only unusual, but wonderfully mesmerizing, each in its own way. *(story continues on next page)*

Answer: 'Zebrina' comes from the old Portuguese word for zebra, alluding to stripes

Antiques Roadshow photo courtesy of PBS; Klip Collective, Reed Pattern Y, photo: David Michael Howarth Photography



How do our horticulturists make more plants? How can you? The **Propagation Station** illustrates the many ways to do that using ones you already have. There are live examples and instructions for making and propagating leaf cuttings, particularly from succulents, root cuttings in both soil and water, and germinating seeds. Start your own greenhouse, anyone? Detailed instructions on the various techniques are also available here.

The center of the room will highlight a continual rotation of bonsai, more succulents, and cacti as well as other delights to interest and amaze you.

Limelight and Big Leaf hydrangea proudly stand in an urn in the last corner. Next to them, more hydrangea blooms heads are strung on fishing line to create an ornamental garland. Try this at home. In late winter, to the left of the door, was one final, graceful and dramatic good-bye and thanks for coming, the Japanese flowering apricot tree, **Prunus mume**. It gave us an early present, blossoming in mid-winter, late February. If you are a fan of Japanese food, this is the tree that gives us the fruit umeboshi plums are made from. I love them! You can find them at stores like “The Asian Food Store” on 10 Schalks Crossing in Plainsboro. All these living things demonstrate that Grounds For Sculpture has new things for you to discover in every month of the year! Their beauty is never-ending with something unique and different to see every time you visit.

# Bloom Watch

Janis Napoli | Horticulturist

Bloom times are weather-dependent so if you are waiting for something in particular, keep an eye out a week or so on either side of the expected time.

- JUNE

The wildflower planting in the Meadow will be continuing as the blooms rotate thru the season. We'll be watching for peonies, roses, wisteria, fringe trees, and some late spring bulbs around the grounds. Summer perennials will begin to fill out our palette.
- JULY

Waterlilies, Stewartias, Oakleaf Hydrangea, and Itea blossom in July, in addition to our native cacti and Native Magnolias.

As July rolls around the Lotus, Abelia, Southern Magnolia, and Chaste trees will steal the show!
- AUGUST

Lots of interesting annuals and perennial will be in full color by August. Keep an eye on the beds around the Van Gogh Pond and the stadium garden on the walk to Rat's Restaurant.

How fortunate we are to have had our paid interns, Jen Mothes and James MacDuff. They came to us from Mercer County Community College to assist our horticulturists in the work done over the past winter months including this exhibition and the planting of many bulbs. Their work will continue to show throughout the spring and summer months. We will continue to partner with MCCC to mentor and train the upcoming generations of Earth Keepers and help fight climate change. Did you know our trees are helping by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon within themselves and the soil, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere? GFS is committed to doing its part! One of our hardwoods absorbs as much as 48 pounds of CO2 annually. This means it will sequester approximately 1 ton of CO2 by the time it is 40 years of age. Oak is the champion genus of carbon absorbing species. Look for our collection of oaks out on the Grounds. Also, search for our horse chestnut heroes, as well.

We invite you to go on a scavenger hunt while visiting the Grounds to locate and view (but not remove) these and many more secrets each time you visit us. If you happen to spot Janis or Cat hard at work, stop and say hello, for they are two of our best kept secrets!



Lotus flowers at Grounds For Sculpture

Lotus Flowers at Grounds For Sculpture, photos: Claire Cossaboon, Director of Membership

# ROBERTO LUGO

## The Village Potter

Faith McClellan | Director of Collections & Exhibitions

Opening in May 2022, Grounds For Sculpture will present work by ceramicist, performance artist, and educator, Roberto Lugo in the Museum building. Lugo is a master of ceramics, creating vessels that reference the traditional European and Asian decorative arts historically displayed as luxury items in wealthy homes. Recognizing the cultural divide between where he grew up and the world he inhabits now, as well as the exclusivity traditionally placed on porcelain objects, Lugo wants to complicate the narrative that art is something precious and not available for everyone.

His surface treatment is a mixture of traditional design, graffiti, and portraiture focusing on representation of iconic people of color from contemporary culture and history. Through his work, Lugo creates space for conversations around key themes of equity, access, and social and racial justice. He points to the larger conversations happening now around monuments, questioning who is commemorated and what message that sends, while representing the stories of those whose struggles contributed to paving the way to opportunities for others.

For several months leading up to the exhibition opening, Lugo was in residence creating and firing a series of large-scale ceramic vessels on site. An additional new monumental sized work was commissioned for this project which will provide opportunities for visitors to physically interact within the form. This monumental work which borrows visual language from his ceramic works, will allow guests to place themselves inside the sculpture to celebrate their individual uniqueness. Fabricated at the Digital Atelier and The Seward Johnson Atelier, this sculpture will be featured in the exhibition.

Lugo often remarks on his gratitude for the mentors that held the door open for him as he was looking for opportunities to hone his craft. In turn, an important part of his practice includes community building, extending opportunities, and even space within his studio to young artists who like he once was, are seeking to find their way. Part of that extended community includes his work as a professor of ceramics at Tyler School of Art and Architecture. In his words, “it takes a village to make a potter”. The mezzanine of the Museum will include a selection of works by artists that Lugo counts among his mentors, as well as artists he has mentored in kind.

The “village” Lugo has created extends to everyone who visits the exhibition who are invited to visit a drop-in maker space within the gallery. Located in the center of the exhibition space, this open studio will allow visitors of any skill level an opportunity to nurture their inner artist and get their hands in clay.

Roberto Lugo holds a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute and an MFA from Penn State. His work has been featured in exhibitions at the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, the Clay Studio in Philadelphia, and the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, among many others. Lugo is a recipient of numerous awards, most recently including a 2019 Pew Fellowship, a Cynthia Hazen Polsky and Leon Polsky Rome Prize, and a US Artist Award. His work is found in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, and The Brooklyn Museum. His solo exhibition at the Walters Museum of Art in Baltimore received international acclaim, earning a spot in *Hyperallergic's* “Top 20 exhibitions of 2018”. He recently contributed work to the new Afro-Futurist period room *Before Yesterday We Could Fly*, unveiled at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2021.

### BANK OF AMERICA

**Roberto Lugo: The Village Potter is supported by lead sponsor Bank of America**, with major support from the Edna W. Andrade Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation, The Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation, the New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel & Tourism, and Marjorie Ogilvie and Miller Parker. Additional generous exhibition support by the Brooke Barrie Art Fund, Judith Burgis, Drs. Umesh and Sunanda Gaur, Holman, NRG, PSEG, and Barbara Eberlein and Jerry Wind. Support is provided in part by the Atlantic Foundation, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.



Yo Soy Boricua: A DNA Study



Street Shrine 1: A Notorious Story (Stuffed Bear)



Roberto Lugo, 2019

Roberto Lugo, *Yo Soy Boricua: A DNA Study*, 2019, resin, acrylic paint, vessel: 79 x 44 x 21 inches, figure: 66 x 29 x 16 inches, Image courtesy of Wexler Gallery, photo: Ken Ek; Roberto Lugo, *Street Shrine 1: A Notorious Story (Stuffed Bear)*, 2019, glazed ceramic, Image courtesy of Wexler Gallery, photo: Ken Ek; Roberto Lugo, Courtesy of Temple University, Photo: Joseph V. Labolito



# FRAGILE: EARTH

In partnership with *The Color Network*

Guest Curated by Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy

Faith McClellan | Director of Collections & Exhibitions

Conceived through a partnership with *The Color Network*, Grounds For Sculpture presents an exhibition titled *Fragile: Earth* opening in the Domestic Arts Building in May 2022. The Color Network's mission is to aid in the advancement of people of color in the ceramic arts. Their focus includes exhibitions, community events, and mentorship.

*Fragile: Earth* frames artists' reflections on social, environmental, and individual perceptions of fragility through the unique materiality of clay and ceramics. Metaphorically, clay perfectly embodies the duality of fragility. Soft, flexible, and vulnerable when unfired. Solid, strong, and easily shattered when fired. How does this duality of fragility manifest in the world? In our society and in our personal lives? This exhibition is an exploration of vulnerability's presence in strength: the faults of a strong façade and the fragility of powerful entities like nature or government.

The work of sixteen artists will be featured in this exhibition, including work by **Natalia Arbelaez, Ashwini Bhat, Ebitenyefa Baralaye, Syd Carpenter, Adam Chau, Jennifer Ling Datchuk, Magdolene Dykstra, April Felipe, Raheleh Filsoofi, Salvador Jiménez Flores, Anabel Juárez, Anina Major, Jane Margarete, Mariana Ramos Ortiz, Virgil Ortiz, and Sarah Petty**. Each of the artists' works will incorporate clay or ceramic in some form, spanning a variety of techniques, testifying to the versatility of this medium.

This exhibition is guest curated by Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy (She/Her), a New York and Los Angeles based curator, writer, and arts administrator

of contemporary art and craft. Her current research focuses on the subversive power of humor, cuteness, and leisure as tools of protest. Amplifying the voices of BIPOC artists is central to her practice. She recently served as Assistant Curator at the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD), NY where she oversaw MAD's Burke Prize, a prestigious contemporary craft award, and helped organize over twenty exhibitions since 2016, including 2021's *Craft Front & Center*. She has also contributed to *Cultured* and *American Craft* magazines and catalogs at MAD and the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts, NE. She holds an MA from the Bard Graduate Center, NY, in Decorative Arts, Design History, & Material Culture.

The exhibition will be accompanied by an exhibition catalogue as well as a series of artist-led programs centered around the practice of the exhibiting artists. In addition to these programs, GFS and The Color Network will co-host a fundraising event, *Fragile: Cup*, which will allow visitors to bid on and take home one of a kind, ceramic mugs created by contemporary artists. Funds raised during this event will support the mission of The Color Network.

**BANK OF AMERICA**

*Fragile: Earth* is supported by lead sponsor Bank of America, with major support from The Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation and Marjorie Ogilvie and Miller Parker. Additional generous exhibition support by the Brooke Barrie Art Fund, Judith Burgis, Drs. Umesh and Sunanda Gaur, Holman, NRG, PSEG, and Barbara Eberlein and Jerry Wind. Support is provided in part by the Atlantic Foundation, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.



Magdolene Dykstra, *Babel*



Ebitenyefa Baralaye, *Feels Real*



Magdolene Dykstra, *Babel* (detail)



Ashwini Bhat, *Self Portrait, California Landscape*

## Collection News: Conservation of George Sugarman, *Doubles*

Faith McClellan | Director of Collections & Exhibitions

*Doubles* is an important cornerstone in Grounds For Sculpture's collection, representing the work of an artist who contributed significantly to the history of contemporary abstract sculpture. George Sugarman (1912-1999, American) graduated from City College, New York City, NY, and his formal art training was under Ossip Zadkine. After studying at Zadkine's school in Paris, Sugarman returned to New York in 1955 and helped found the New Sculpture Group, an organization promoting abstract art. He also taught at Hunter College and Yale University in the 1960s.

Although George Sugarman's early works were predominantly made of wood, by the late 1960s Sugarman became more interested in utilizing metal, as his focus changed to creating art for public spaces. Adhering to the principle that sculpture should function in a way that is readily accessible to the public, Sugarman began to simplify and consolidate his forms. While continuing an exploration of contrasting solid areas with voids, Sugarman designed large-scale works painted with vibrant colors and accentuated with cut-outs. His works are typically constructed of planes punctured by negative space, causing the viewer's focus to shift from the surfaces through the open areas and back again. *Doubles*, made of welded cut-out shapes alternately painted blue and white, resembles an unfurling flower as the components rise from the ground and curve outwards. Each plane contains curvilinear cut-outs while the sections are placed to circumscribe an inner core of space.

George Sugarman was part of the groundbreaking "Art of the U.S." exhibition at the Whitney Museum for American Art. More recently Sugarman's work has been rediscovered in context to, and contrast against, the movements through which he developed his oeuvre, including an exhibition in 2013 at Gary Snyder Gallery, *George Sugarman: Painted Wood*. Of this body of work, critic John Yao for *Hyperallergic* notes Sugarman's "unrecognized greatness" and states:

**"During the rise of Minimalism, a number of received tropes continued to prevail — that sculpture had a central spine (or what Sugarman called "the concept of the core") as it sat on the floor, rose off it, or was attached to the wall; that its material (steel, bronze, wood) could not be covered over with paint, because that would be a form of disguise, a betrayal of the materials; that the forms in a sculpture had to come from the same family, as in David Smith's series Cubi (1961–65).**

**That Sugarman successfully challenged all of these touchstones, which sculptors of very different alliances accepted seemingly without question, is a mark of both his radical innovations and his greatness. He literally rethought sculpture from the inside out. This is why his work has been neglected for so long; he challenged convention on the deepest level and, more importantly, made work that fully embodied his alternative vision.**

**Between 1959 and the '70s, as the art world celebrated the achievements of Minimalism, Pop Art and Color Field painting, emphasizing the literal, or what Frank Stella summed up in his statement, "what you see is what you see," over all other possibilities, Sugarman kept bringing the imagination and its capacity for allusion and freedom into play." (June 9, 2013, Hyperallergic, 'George Sugarman's Unrecognized Greatness' [hyperallergic.com](https://hyperallergic.com))**

Major commissions have been installed at Empire State Mall, Albany, NY; Federal Court Building, Baltimore, MD; International Building, Miami Airport, Miami, FL; Willis Eye Hospital, Philadelphia, PA; Storm King Art Center, Mountainville, NY; and other corporate headquarters throughout the United States. His sculptures have been placed in the collections at the Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, NY; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN and at other American and European Museums. He has been honored with one-person exhibitions at noted museums and galleries throughout the world.

A detailed conservation survey of the collection conducted in 2012 concluded that *Doubles* would likely require intervention in about 5-7 years from that time. Indeed, continued fading and deterioration of the painted surface requires that this sculpture now be repainted in order to continue exhibiting this work in alignment with the artist's intent. Further documentation conducted during a paint survey analysis in 2014 sought to document more completely the original paint systems and current paint condition of this work, among other painted sculptures in the permanent collection. These studies help to guide Grounds For Sculpture's long-range conservation planning. Additionally, GFS has discussed the restoration project with representatives of the Sugarman estate. Through these conversations we learned that Sugarman donated a large amount of his working drafts and archival material to the Smithsonian. At the estate's suggestion, GFS curatorial staff examined these records in order to gain the most complete understanding of this work.

While Grounds For Sculpture does allocate a significant amount of funds from the general operating support to conduct routine preventive conservation for the collection, larger projects such as repainting monumental sculptures requires advanced planning and significant funding. The Brooke Barrie Art Fund provides a much needed source of funding for larger conservation projects. Recently the Brooke Barrie Art Fund supported the patina restoration of four works by Michele Oka Doner, *Radiant Disk*, *Ice Ring*, *Eve #1* and *Venus #1*. In 2022, the Brooke Barrie Art Fund will be supporting the restoration of *Doubles*. We anticipate that this sculpture will be deinstalled during the spring of 2022 and moved to The Seward Johnson Atelier, where it will be disassembled, sandblasted, and repainted. The reinstallation of the restored sculptures is planned for fall 2022.





## Education News

**Julio Enrique Badel** | Director of Education & Community Engagement

This past winter Grounds For Sculpture worked with Petra Pankow and The Dina Wind Foundation to create a unique Educator Guide titled Looking At Sculpture using Dina Wind's *Harp of David #1* as inspiration. Free for all and available online on GFS's Tool Box section, this resource aims to provide tools for teaching about sculpture, in the classroom or onsite at Grounds For Sculpture. Adaptable for students of all ages, the engagements address National Arts Standards, and present a methodology for nurturing 21st century skills, such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creative expression. We thank Petra Pankow and The Dina Wind Foundation for their partnership and expertise in creating this resource which provides a model for future opportunities where educators and artists can work together.



### CERAMIC WORKSHOPS

This spring Grounds For Sculpture enters a new exploration to the world of ceramics with exhibitions *Roberto Lugo: The Village Potter* and *The Color Network's Fragile: Earth*. In parallel with these exhibitions, 2022 public programs will also provide members and visitors to get their hands deep into the clay with various workshops and events. Be on the lookout each season for multi-sessions workshops with ceramics hand-building and wheel throwing. In the fall, GFS will host several talks and conversations with leading practitioners in the field of ceramics including artist Winnie Owens-Hart.

This summer GFS will partner with The Color Network to offer free community workshops focused on Spanish speakers and individuals dealing with trauma in their daily lives.

#### **Fragile: Voice**

A Spanish-speaking program focused on immigration and family stories. Natalia Arbelaez will share her work and quick art history survey and then lead a hands-on workshop for participants transcribe their own history into clay.

#### **Fragile: Soul**

Artist Sarah Petty with Grounds For Sculpture is offering three different ceramic workshops for adults who identify as living with depression, anxiety and PTSD who are veterans and people of color are welcome to join.

### MAKER SPACE

In connection with the exhibition of Roberto Lugo's work opening in the spring of 2022, GFS will present a drop-in Maker Space within the gallery of the Museum Building. This space is open when the exhibition is open and free for all Members and visitors. Roberto Lugo often talks about how his experience with art was limited growing up, and now as a widely recognized artist, he centers both his artistic practice and his social activism around representation and opportunity. Clay by its nature is an accessible entry point for all, regardless of skill level, to engage in the act of creative making. Working with clay requires no specialized skills or tools, just a willingness to play and imagination. Join us in our new maker space, with its Grand Opening on Member Preview Day – Saturday, May 21st!

### WELLNESS

Maintaining positive mental, physical, and emotional health has been of utmost importance these past two years as we navigate a pandemic, social unrest, and economic uncertainty. In response, Grounds For Sculpture has taken the position as an inclusive meeting point for this necessary healing through the exploration of art making, horticulture, and wellness. Tai Chi, Meditation, Sounds Baths, and Herbalism programs will continue to be offered along with Wellness Walks and Family Open Studios each monthly.

This past September, GFS held its first Wellness Convening in partnership with Michael Graves Design group to brainstorm the future possibilities of wellness as a primary resource at Grounds For Sculpture. To continue these connections and conversation for future growth, GFS is forming a Wellness Advisory Council with participants from varying professions, expertise, and cultures. This groups will be a sounding board for new ideas and broadening our audiences to reflect the local communities of Hamilton and Trenton, and we look forward to sharing with you future projects in 2023 and beyond.

### WELLNESS WALKS

Early this spring, GFS continued its Wellness Walk program for the public and seniors in the area. In addition to longtime partner Trent Center Apartments participating, Hamilton Senior Center will also be joining our Wellness Walks each month. Wellness Walks are the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 am and include a volunteer-led walk and a meditation workshop ending with coffee and tea for guests to enjoy and connect with each other. This year's guest instructors include meditation, tai chi, and movement through dance. We are excited to welcome the Hamilton Senior Center to GFS and look forward to growing our relationship.

*The Wellness Walk program is focused on providing opportunities for stress relief for underserved communities in the local community and funded in part by Janssen and the Integra Foundation.*

### TRENTON HOMEWORKS

Since the fall of 2020, Grounds For Sculpture's Education team has been working with Trenton HomeWorks to provide online and in-person creative experiences for self-expression. Beginning in late 2021, the students have been visiting GFS twice monthly to explore the grounds and have studio time to explore art-making and team-building. The scholars have explored personal differences in communication styles, identity through flag making, and collaboration through sneaker designs. We look forward to working with future Trenton HomeWorks scholars this fall once the school year resumes and making more artwork at GFS.

***"What began as a chance meeting a few years ago, has developed into an organic learning experience for both the HomeWorks scholars and myself to better understand the Trenton community and the power of personal connection through art."***

- Julio Badel, Director of Education & Community Engagement

#### **HomeWorks Trenton**

HomeWorks Trenton runs a free, community-based, after-school residential program where Black and Brown girls can authentically express themselves while receiving academic and social-emotional tools to thrive despite living in a systemically unjust society.

From Sunday evenings to Friday mornings, our scholars live in the HomeWorks house and are transported to and from their public schools. Every afternoon, scholars engage in activities focused on academics, cultural life skills, women empowerment, and civic engagement. They then eat a family-style meal and stay overnight in our dorm with three full-time staff members.



▮ Seward Johnson, *The Chamber of Internal Dialogue* ▮

By providing a space to safely gather and explore and define their experiences, cultures, and identities, HomeWorks offers the scholars a chance to see that their ideas, visions, and presence deserve a place in this world.

*HomeWorks Trenton's bi-monthly experience at GFS is funded in part by Investors Bank Foundation and Roma Bank Community Foundation.*



### NIGHT FORMS SUPPORTERS SPONSOR COMMUNITY ACCESS

**Karen Hollywood** | Director of Corporate and Foundation Engagement

GFS distributed over 750 community tickets for access to *Night Forms* through the generous support of 500 underwritten by lead sponsor Bank of America, along with 250 via our additional supporters Bloomberg Philanthropies, Capital Health System, Geoscape, NJM Insurance Group, and NRG.

Non-profit partners worked with clients to facilitate group visits, including arranging transportation or sharing tickets with families for their own visits. It was great to see some groups returning to GFS, along with some first-time guests. The partners will be engaged this spring as we share the opportunity for youth groups to visit GFS. Access to these exhibits is a core goal of both the artists and our organization and we are excited to host visits for nonprofit groups to view the ceramics exhibitions with an introduction and hands-on workshops led by our Museum Educators to engage visitors in ceramic material and technique exploration, in our ceramics Maker Space within the Roberto Lugo exhibition space.

**Agencies who distributed Community Tickets for Night Forms 2021 included:** Arc Mercer, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mercer County, Boys and Girls Club of Mercer County, Bromley Neighborhood Civic Center-Operated by CYO of Mercer County, Dress for Success, Homefront, Millhill Child and Family Development, National Junior Tennis and Learning of Trenton, Oaks Integrated Care, Outdoor Equity Alliance, RISE, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen Arts Program, The College of New Jersey - Center for Student Success, The College of New Jersey - Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF), The College of New Jersey - The Bonner Institute, The Father Center, The James R Halsey Foundation of the Arts, Trenton Circus Squad, Trenton Homeworks, Trenton Music Makers, Trenton Youth Wrestling, Urban Promise Trenton, United Way of Greater Mercer County, We Embrace Fatherhood, and Womanspace.



## EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION AT GFS

**Kathleen Greene** | Chief Audience Officer

In 2021 Grounds For Sculpture worked with Tangible Development, a well-respected EDI (equity, diversity, and inclusion) consultancy organization, who engaged our staff, volunteers, members, tickets buyers, funders, and artists in a 360 assessment of experiences at GFS. At the same time key staff members, along with board and volunteers, participated in a leadership training and a separate 5-month capacity-building training to expand individual understanding of key tenants within EDI work. This work is an outcome of our [2017 strategic plan](#) where GFS Board worked with staff to articulate and commit to the values and goals of reverence, social impact, responsiveness, inclusion, and diversity. This work will inform and enrich our collective work as we move forward.

## GFS RECEIVES MULTI-YEAR GRANT

**Karen Hollywood** | Director of Corporate and Foundation Engagement

Grounds For Sculpture was delighted to receive a multi-year capacity building grant from The Bunbury Fund at the Princeton Area Community Foundation. The Bunbury Fund supports non-profit organizations making significant impacts across central New Jersey, and most specifically Mercer County, to strengthen their capacity to effectively advance their missions toward sustainable, organizational maturity. This grant supports GFS's work with Tangible Development LLC a consultancy firm who are in the process of working with GFS board, leadership, staff, and volunteers to activate EDI goals as outlined in our strategic plan. *"Prioritizing the integration of EDI principles and practices in the work of all GFS committees from the Executive and Governance Committees to each program area such Art Acquisitions is meaningful and having early impact for each GFS Board member. GFS Board and staff are engaged, in meaningful ways, studying the Tangible major findings and recommendations. The rewards support ongoing work involving "chat and chew professional learning sessions" and other small tasks."* Penelope Lattimer, GFS Board Member and Co-Chair of the EDI Committee.

## COMMUNITY ACCESS

**Sam Hwang** | Director of Guest Services

As a member of the Families First Discovery Pass program, Grounds For Sculpture offers rich arts and horticulture experiences to low-income families and individuals across the state of New Jersey. In 2021, we welcomed 3,304 visitors through this program, thanks to the generous support of Barbara and Jerry Essig.

The ACCESS Program is a public initiative by Art-Reach that empowers those individuals and families who come from low-income households or those with disabilities residing in Pennsylvania and Delaware. Grounds For Sculpture partnered with Art-Reach in March 2022 to expand our accessible options to our surrounding community.

With Grounds For Sculpture's focus on wellness, we now permanently offer \$5 off general admission tickets for healthcare workers. We hope to provide an outdoor haven that aims to inspire, thrill, and rejuvenate all who visit, especially for those who work so hard to support our community.

## eMEMBERSHIP TIPS & SUGGESTIONS

Allow Notifications from the eMembership app for exclusive member news, deals and special happenings. Discover ways to make the most of your GFS membership by exploring the FAQ's in the eMembership app. (See screen examples on right)

## SHARE YOUR DIGITAL GUEST PASSES WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY!

When in your eMembership app account, view your guest passes under "Membership Benefits" then tap "Guest Pass". Tap the  button in the upper right-hand corner.

Next, select the guest passes you'd like to share, then choose to text or email the Guest Pass(es) to your guest.

Guest Passes are one-time use, and are marked as USED when redeemed at Grounds For Sculpture.

