



SPRING/SUMMER 2023

# NEWSCASTING

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

TWO NEW ARTIST LED, COMMUNITY DRIVEN EXHIBITIONS:

**Local Voices:** Memories, Stories, and Portraits     **Spiral Q:** The Parade

**Cloud Swing**  
coming to GFS

**Behind the Scenes**  
of the GFS Plant Sale

**Bloom**  
Watch

**Johnson Atelier**  
Experiences & Exhibitions



MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUGUST



# WELCOME

Dear Members,

As I write this note, I am surrounded by the steady hum of work going on at Grounds For Sculpture. *Night Forms* has been deinstalled, and our new *Perspectives* exhibitions are preparing to launch in late April. Our “living collection” is blooming, and the horticultural team is busy caring for our thriving grounds. And so much more. I suppose our work never truly slows down now that we are an all-season destination, and we have all of you to thank for supporting GFS through it all. I thought I’d take a minute to share just a few of the ways your generosity is making a difference, all through the lens of education.

Our engagement with schools is back in full post-pandemic swing, with young students from across New Jersey and nearby Pennsylvania visiting to explore the grounds with their classmates and teachers. There has been a steady stream, and we are booked up with school visits now through mid-June. Did you know that we welcome over 4,200 students a year to GFS? And we will be growing that number with your support. Our Education team has already coordinated camp groups coming for ceramics classes in the summer, where kids will get their creative juices flowing. They’ll make ceramics containers with clay using a variety of techniques, which will then be glazed and fired at GFS to pick up at a later date.

GFS is reaching out to local community classrooms too. Through our partnership with Millhill Center, our educators go into 7 classrooms in Trenton, once a month, to read stories and do art activities with local preschool classes. This spring, the Education team will also begin partnering with Hamilton YMCA to prototype afterschool art making programs at a local middle school. I hear all the time that providing arts education for our youngest citizens is near and dear to your hearts. Because of *your support*, GFS is able to help kids develop creativity, social skills and fine motor skills with open-ended art projects where they can make choices, use their imaginations, and create with their hands. This is exactly the kind of work we are hoping to scale up over time.

Hearing all this positivity, I hope you pause for a moment to acknowledge your part in making this work possible. We couldn’t do it without you, and we’ll continue to because of you.

With gratitude,

  
**Gary Garrido Schneider**  
Executive Director



## HOURS THIS SEASON

### Daytime Admission – Covered by your membership!

- **Through May 28, 2023** – Open Wednesday-Monday (closed Tuesdays), 10AM-5PM
- **Starting May 13-September 3** – Late Nights open til 9PM on Friday-Sunday
- **May 29-September 3, 2023** – Open Daily, 10AM-5PM
- **Member Mornings – Members-only hours**, 8AM every Saturday and Sunday, May 13 - September 3

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/timed-admission-tickets](https://groundsforsculpture.org/timed-admission-tickets)

### MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP *Register your membership on the GFS website*

Registering your membership’s online account allows you to “Sign In” to conveniently reserve your free visits, renew, register for programs, and receive your member discounts where applicable!

If you have not already done so, register your membership’s online account [here](#).

### SIGN UP FOR GFS E-NEWS:

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

**The Access Mobile Tour** is a 45-minute tour that is available daily for visitors with disabilities or limited mobility. The cart can accommodate a maximum of five people or four people and a wheelchair. Tours are scheduled at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm. Reservations strongly recommended by calling 609.586.0616.

**Docent Tours** are available based on docent availability. Check in at the Welcome Center to see what pop-up tours are available during your visit!

### Discover something new or learn more about a longtime favorite!

Explore our collection of 400+ works on our [website](#) and our interactive map ([gfsmap.org](#)), which features sculpture and horticulture throughout the grounds, as well as an [audio tour](#) offering docent interpretations of 28 sculptures and 2 historical spots. View our tool box of new [self-guided activities](#) to enhance your next visit.

## CONNECT WITH GFS!



@GROUNDSFORSCULPTURE

# MEMBER EVENTS

For more information or to register for these events, visit [groundsforsculpture.org/calendar](https://groundsforsculpture.org/calendar) or 609.586.0616

## MEMBER MORNINGS

8am every Saturday + Sunday (May 13 – Sept 3)



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://groundsforsculpture.org/timed-admission-tickets)

## FAMILY OPEN STUDIOS

First Saturday of each month, 11am–3pm

This drop-in themed art-making workshop invites all ages to create together. FREE for Members!

Supported in part by PNC Foundation

Learn more: [groundsforsculpture.org/calendar/?fwp\\_event\\_type=family](https://groundsforsculpture.org/calendar/?fwp_event_type=family)

## MEMBER TRIP TO MONTCLAIR

Friday, June 23, 2023

Join us for a special trip exploring Montclair Art Museum and Manufacturers Village Artists studios. \$225 includes comfortable coach transportation, special access tours, and lunch at a popular local restaurant. *Limited space!*

Learn more: [groundsforsculpture.org/events/member-trip-to-montclair](https://groundsforsculpture.org/events/member-trip-to-montclair)

## 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)

## GFS FAMILY BREAKFAST

Saturday, July 22, 2023, 10am–12pm

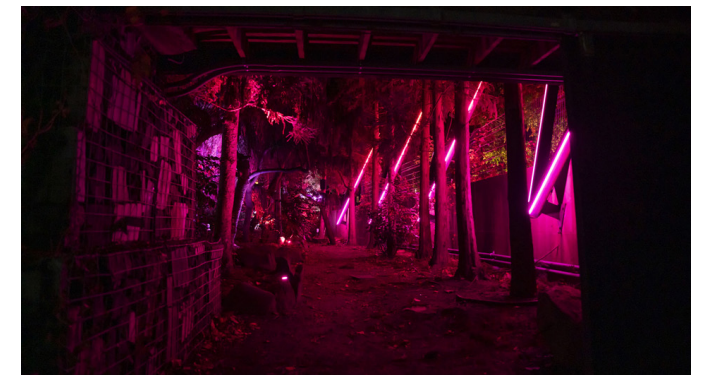


Calling all members at membership levels *Family*, *Family Plus*, *Contributor*, *Sustainer*, and *Benefactor*! Enjoy breakfast and explore family-focused activities connected to artwork currently on view. Program registration required at [groundsforsculpture.org](https://groundsforsculpture.org) starting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

## MEMBER PRE-SALE FOR TICKETS TO NIGHT FORMS

Member Pre-Sale August 1-31;

Non-member tickets release September 1



*Night Forms* – On view November 2023 through April 2024  
A reimaged, after-hours light and sound experience unlike any other. Members enjoy early access to discounted tickets.

## MEMBER DISCOUNTS AT GFS

Members enjoy **10% off** on all merchandise in the Museum Shop and **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 + Seasonal Menu: [ratsrestaurant.com](https://ratsrestaurant.com)



## member REFLECTIONS

### Night Forms: Infinite Wave

Thank you to everyone who visited *Night Forms: Infinite Wave*. For the second *Night Forms* season, we partnered again with Klip Collective to present a reimagined after-hours, multi-sensory light and sound experience designed to engage with the Grounds For Sculpture art and horticulture collection. We were delighted to host 43,700 visitors; 51% being first-time visitors to our grounds! As always, GFS members enjoyed an exclusive Member Preview Night, with first access to *Infinite Wave*, discounted tickets, and complimentary hot beverages in the Member Lounge.

With support from lead sponsor Bank of America and the following exhibition supporters: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Capital Health, Chubb, Donna M. Murray – Compass Real Estate, Geoscape, NJM Insurance Group, NRG, Oliver Communications Group Inc., and PSE&G, Grounds For Sculpture distributed over 950 community tickets to 47 local non-profits and organizations to facilitate group and family visits to *Night Forms* proactively building equitable access into the project.

Included in sponsor benefits was the underwriting of free access to partner organizations that we work with throughout the year, as well as those who may be new to GFS. Over 950 complimentary tickets have been distributed through a variety of non-profit agencies that worked with clients to facilitate group visits or family reservations to visit the exhibition. The process has strengthened, expanded, and created relationships with a robust list of partners. So far this year the following organizations have received tickets: *LifeTies, Inc., Trenton Homeworks, Oaks Integrated Care, Children's Home Society, Bromley Neighborhood Civic Center - Operated by CYO of Mercer County Global Youth Transformation Initiative, First Tee, The College of New Jersey - The Bonner Institute, Urban Promise Trenton, Anchor House, Womanspace, LUCY Outreach, Womanspace, Homefront, Millhill Child & Family Development, SERV Behavioral Health System, Inc., Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Camp Fire New Jersey, Capital Harmony Works, Dawn of Hope Inc., New Jersey Angels, RISE, Trenton Circus Squad, Dress for Success, National Junior Tennis & Learning of Trenton, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mercer County, Boys and Girls Club of Mercer County.*

### BANK OF AMERICA

*Night Forms: Infinite Wave* is supported by lead sponsor Bank of America and the following exhibition supporters: Bloomberg Philanthropies, Capital Health, Chubb, Donna M. Murray – Compass Real Estate, Geoscape, NJM Insurance Group, NRG Energy, Oliver Communications Group Inc., and PSE&G. 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.



Supported in part by a grant from NJ Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism.



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



### DIGITAL MEMBER LOUNGE

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



On December 5, GFS members enjoyed a member trip to Brandywine Museum of Art and winter lights at Longwood Gardens. First we took a very special guided tour of *Fragile Earth: The Naturalist Impulse in Contemporary Art*, which featured four leading contemporary artists, Jennifer Angus, Mark Dion, Courtney Mattison, and James Prosek, whose work engages with environmental themes. We then explored the art museum's permanent collection and the holiday favorite Brandywine Railroad train exhibit. We then continued to Longwood Gardens for its winter lights display, featuring the always stunning indoor conservatory gardens and outdoor wonderland illuminated by a half-million lights.

On March 14, GFS members experienced an exclusive tour of the Johnson Atelier. We were welcomed behind-the-scenes at the working atelier with Keppie, Chief Business Development Officer for Johnson Atelier Digital. Members learned about the operations and saw works-in-progress, such as *The Awakening* which is now installed at St. Michaels Farm Preserve in Hopewell Township, and *Embracing Peace* which has traveled to Omaha!



On April 22, GFS held its popular Member Preview Day, an exclusive opportunity for GFS Members to be among the first to explore the season and new exhibitions *Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits* and *Spiral Q: The Parade*. Members enjoyed unique programming, such as opportunities to meet the artists and curators, interactive and art-making activities, Tai Chi in the garden, horticulture tours, a sneak peek at a brand new sculpture installation on the grounds, and access to the Member Lounge with complimentary beverages.

### HAVE AN IDEA FOR FEATURE IN NEWSCASTING?

Email Claire Cossaboon, Director of Membership, at: [ccossaboon@groundsforsculpture.org](mailto:ccossaboon@groundsforsculpture.org)

Seward Johnson, *The Awakening*, ©1980 with Seward Johnson, *Return Visit*, ©1991, 2014 The Seward Johnson Atelier, Inc.  
Elizabeth Strong-Cuevas, *Arch II*, 1993, aluminum, 144 x 132 x 60 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of the Artist, photo: David Michael Howarth Photography

## Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits



Storytelling is the shortest distance between two people. Stories can serve as a bridge across differences. This is one of the reasons **Quentin "ThePoet" Williams** is so passionate about storytelling through video, art, performance, and spoken word.

Quentin is an Adjunct Professor of Social Media Marketing at Temple University's Klein College of Media and Communication. He is the CEO of DragonTree Media Group, Producer of We The People Stage, a curator, actor, and poet. He was recently featured in NBC10's *Discover Black Heritage* 2023 Black History Month special. He has also performed on stage, TV, radio, and platforms like Def Poetry Jam, Upworthy for the *Free Meek Movement*, & Tina Lawson's Who Got The Mic.

As an artistivist, Quentin is committed to placemaking through the curation of immersive multi-media experiences. His intention is always to foster connections that facilitate equity and inclusion through the power of written, spoken, and visual storytelling. He is particularly committed to helping Black & Brown communities heal from intergenerational trauma through his art, activism, spiritual practice, and business alliances.

Both exhibitions are on view thru January 7, 2024, on the mezzanine and ground floor in the Domestic Arts Building. Be sure to visit several times during the run of the exhibitions, as the exhibits will change over time!

## Spiral Q: The Parade



**Madhusmita Bora** "madhu" (she/her) is an award-winning Assamese-American dancer, teacher, writer, filmmaker, activist and trained journalist. Madhu has written for WURD Radio, Philadelphia Inquirer, Indianapolis Star, Tampa Bay Times and Press of Atlantic City.

She is an adjunct professor at Lincoln University and an International Classroom Speaker at The Penn Museum.

A native practitioner of Sattriya, Madhu founded Sattriya Dance Company in 2009 to raise awareness for the deeply layered 500 year-old spiritual movement and music tradition indigenous to the land of Kamarupa, now known as the Indian state of Assam. Her work has been supported by multiple grants from Leeway Foundation and The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. She is also a recipient of a project grant from the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage and has been nominated twice for the Pew Fellowship. As an immigrant living in diaspora, Madhu's practice grounds her by actively connecting her to her roots and self. Listening to and recording stories is her current passion. She believes in the power of storytelling to heal, empower, and strengthen individuals and their communities.

*Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits* and *Spiral Q: The Parade* is made possible by major support from Marjorie Ogilvie and Miller Parker (PNA Foundation) and The Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation. Additional generous support is provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Brooke Barrie Art Fund, Drs. Umesh and Sunanda Gaur, Holman, NRG Energy, and PSE&G. 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, New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel & Tourism, and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.



Supported in part by a grant from NJ Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism.



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



*Local Voices* Retreat, Feb. 4, 2023, photo: Monica Herndon; Courtesy of *Spiral Q*, photo: Rachael Warriner



# Community Engagement Programs

Julio Enrique Badel  
Director of Education & Community Engagement

[ Sattriya Dance Company ]



## Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits

This year programs for *Local Voices* will feature a variety of engagements with the Sattriya Dance Company, dance performances by Storytellers Kiran Rajagopalan and Sansthita Pattanaik and musical performance by rapper Prashant Verma. In the fall there will be a three part storytelling workshop and panel discussion with community members reflecting on the exhibition.

Our exhibition programs begin with the Sattriya Dance Company offering an afternoon of live music, movement, film, and storytelling on April 29th. Sattriya is a 600-year-old living dance tradition from the Hindu (Vaishnav) monasteries of Assam in Northeast India. The dance and music, preserved and practiced by celibate monks, remained confined to monastic rituals until the 1960s. In 2000, the Indian government inducted Sattriya into the pantheon of major Indian classical dances. Sattriya Dance Company (SDC) is a labor of love for sisters-in-law Madhusmita Bora and Prerona Bhuyan. The company's mission is to promote, archive and spread awareness about Sattriya.

*Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits* and *Spiral Q: The Parade* Programs are supported by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



## Wellness Walks

Wellness Walks are back in 2023 and are a wonderful opportunity to stay active. Join Grounds For Sculpture the first Thursday of each month for exclusive access to the grounds before we open to the public. These morning walks are a wonderful way to boost your energy and connect with others. Walk the gardens, then participate in a workshop focused on developing tools for better health. Wellness Walks are supported, in part, by Integra Foundation.

## Spiral Q: The Parade

The Spiral Q team will lead a three week-long residency in July 2023 at Artworks Trenton's visual arts center in downtown Trenton. Community members and organizations from Trenton will be invited to create puppets, banners and art for a one-mile procession in Trenton to Grounds For Sculpture on Saturday, July 29th. An event not too be missed! Select creations from the residency will then be displayed in the Spiral Q exhibition space at GFS.

Additional programs will include an on-site maker space within the exhibition where participants can make their own protest signs; multiple public workshops throughout the summer and fall focused on puppet making for all ages; and a panel discussion with Spiral Q and community stakeholders at the end of the year.

*Local Voices: Memories, Stories, and Portraits* and *Spiral Q: The Parade* is made possible by major support from Marjorie Ogilvie and Miller Parker (PNAA Foundation) and The Gordon and Llura Gund Foundation. Additional generous support is provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Brooke Barrie Art Fund, Drs. Umesh and Sunanda Gaur, Holman, NRG Energy, and PSE&G. 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, New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel & Tourism, and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.



Supported in part by a grant from NJ Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism.



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



## Family Open Studios & Tots For Sculpture

Family Programs also return this year with our popular monthly event Family Open Studios and the return of Tots For Sculpture. Join us the first Saturday of each month as we explore a variety of themes through artmaking and materials exploration inspired by the GFS collection and current exhibitions. Family Open Studios is an all-day drop-in workshop, inviting all ages to create together. Tots For Sculpture brings together early learners to explore artmaking, music, and movement as they get inspired by GFS's collection and current exhibitions. Each month features a different theme. All Tots For Sculpture workshops are designed for kids ages 3 to 5 together with their adult caregivers. Family Open Studios and Tots For Sculpture are supported, in part, by PNC Foundation.

## Cultural Conversations

In 2022 GFS began recording several of their public conversations with artists and educators to add to our YouTube website for increased accessibility. Cultural Conversations was a series of three dynamic conversations led by student-scholars of color in African American Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at The College of New Jersey. These talks featured a focused look at pieces in both The Color Network's exhibit, *Fragile: Earth* and Roberto Lugo's exhibit, *Roberto Lugo: The Village Potter*. The talks draw upon themes explored through the students' immersive engagement with the artwork and the question, "What worlds open for us when we experience an artwork?" Check these talks and more at the GFS YouTube page [here](#).

*Cultural Conversations* is supported, in part, by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the American Rescue Plan Act.



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES



## Ceramic Studio

GFS continues the momentum from last year's exhibitions of Roberto Lugo and The Color Network to further engage members and the community in the world of clay with a new Ceramic Studio in the Museum Building. Explore, experiment, and learn new art-making skills through ceramics at GFS this year. Work alongside professional artists to create unique, personal artworks that tell your story. Our long-term goal is to have a permanent Ceramic Studio at GFS to build audience, community, and become a resource for ceramics in the region.

Artists teaching this year include Josephine Mette-Larsen, Akiko Jackson, Fred Morante, Robin Turnage, Jihan Thomas, Matt Pembleton, Leni-Paquet Morante, Donna Payton, Kathleen Presziosi, and Margareta Warlick.

Adult workshops include Wheel Throwing, Hand Building, Ceramic Place Settings, Portrait Modeling in Clay, Slab Building, Mixed Media, Creating Connections for adults 55+, and Garden Ceramics. These programs will be 8-week or weekend intensives and invite all levels of experience. Weekday, evening, and weekend classes available.

Family Ceramics at GFS brings art making across generations to create together. Adults and youth work together to create unique collaborations to showcase at home. Family includes a wide variety of relationships, and everyone is invited!

Our spacious Museum Building will be the center of our Ceramic Studio this year and we invite you to join our community.

Visit our Calendar of events for more details and registration [here](#).



## Cloud Swing

Faith McClellan | Director of Collections & Exhibitions Sam Hwang | Director of Guest Services



Isometric Studio, *Cloud Swing* (side view rendering)

*Cloud Swing* is a sculpture designed to inspire a world in which public art and play invite and include people of all abilities. Three standard swings and two wheelchair accessible swings hang from a cloud-shaped metal canopy. The swings face each other, fostering community and a sense of belonging. It is designed by Brooklyn-based Isometric Studio, whose mission is to unite graphic design and architecture to create empowering visual identities and spatial experiences. Through their collaboration with leading cultural institutions and nonprofits, they create opportunities and partnerships characterized by intellectual rigor, aesthetic sophistication, and memorable storytelling.

***“We believe in design that transcends existing expectations by challenging clichés and stereotypes in visual culture. In collaboration with our clients, we shape narratives and spaces of belonging. Through design, we advance an ethos of inclusion, equity, and justice, centering the lived experiences of marginalized people. Our projects often address complex social issues, amplifying activism on gender equity, climate change, racial justice, LGBT identity, and immigrant rights.”***

- Andy Chen and Waqas Jawaaid, Partners, Isometric Studios

Grounds For Sculpture (GFS) is proud to partner with Isometric Studio to host this work for a limited period of time beginning in the spring of 2023. Through this project GFS will create an opportunity for visitors to engage in acts of joy and experiential play, creating a sense of community and shared wellness. Engaging the public in meaningful art experiences open to all aligns with founder Seward Johnson’s vision for GFS to serve as a model for accessible public art.

*Cloud Swing* is currently being fabricated at Serrett Metalworks. While designing the work, and during the construction, Isometric Studio teamed up with IncludeNYC to gather feedback from wheelchair users on the structural



Isometric Studio, *Cloud Swing* work in progress at Serrett Metalworks, Brooklyn, NY

integrity of the accessible swings and ease of use. Over the course of the last few months, GFS staff have taken trips to Brooklyn to review the fabrication progress. Following the installation of *Cloud Swing*, GFS will complete a user-based focus group with the Access Advisory Council partners before opening *Cloud Swing* to the public.

*The fabrication and installation of Cloud Swing is funded by Wellcome Trust as part of their multi-year Mindscapes mental health program. Engineering, fabrication, and installation is provided by Serrett Metalworks. Educational programming support from the Center for the Humanities at CUNY Graduate Center. A special thank you to IncludeNYC and Ketrina Hazell for the community workshops.*



Isometric Studio, *Cloud Swing* detail of wheelchair accessible swing, work in progress

## Monument Lab

Faith McClellan | Director of Collections & Exhibitions

In 2024 the Philadelphia based non-profit public art and history studio, [Monument Lab](#), will guest curate an indoor/outdoor art exhibition and program series at Grounds For Sculpture. Monument Lab’s mission is to cultivate and facilitate critical conversations around the past, present, and future of monuments. The theme of this project re-imagines the material possibilities of public memory and the life cycle of public monuments, and in particular will seek to include materials and processes that are both ephemeral and experimental. This exhibition will also allow us to shine a light on existing works in Grounds For Sculpture’s collection, making connections to these contemporary conversations.

While the roster of artists is still being developed by the Monument Lab team, the artist selection process includes identifying artists who have regularly experimented with unconventional materials and embraced playfulness in their creative practice. The artist roster will also aim to be intergenerational, featuring thought leaders whose practices have consistently addressed issues of accessibility, inclusivity, and equity through their unique perspectives. It is anticipated that several artists will either be New Jersey-born or -based, so that the exhibition and accompanying programming better reflect local conversations around public memory. No stranger to New Jersey organizations

and history, in 2022, Monument Lab partnered with the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the New Jersey Historical Commission to create *The Stories We Tell*, a film series highlighting untold histories from the American Revolution. Additional themes around the 2024 exhibition at Grounds For Sculpture may include ritual, human labor in the creation of public works, environmental sustainability, community, and storytelling.

While work on this project continues, keep your eyes open for another Monument Lab project opening later this year in partnership with the [Trust for the National Mall](#) in Washington, DC. Monument Lab was invited to curate *Pulling Together*, the inaugural exhibition of the *Beyond Granite* initiative on the National Mall, a series of exhibitions, performances, and installations designed to create a more inclusive, equitable, and representative process for commemoration on the National Mall – and beyond. This project will feature prototype monuments that respond to the central curatorial question, “What stories remain untold on the National Mall?”, featuring work by artists such as [Wendy Red Star](#), [vanessa german](#), and [Paul Ramírez Jonas](#).

***Monument Lab exhibition*** – Generous exhibition support by Bloomberg Philanthropies and supported in part by the Atlantic Foundation, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; New Jersey Department of State, Division of Travel & Tourism, and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.





You may have noticed that Admission prices at Grounds For Sculpture increased on March 1. We needed to do so to continue the good work of GFS and to maintain the standard of excellence that you, our members, and our visitors have come to love and expect. In turn, Membership dues also increased April 1.

As a nonprofit, Grounds For Sculpture relies on our admissions revenue and fundraising support to operate and maintain our grounds. We postponed this increase as long as we could because we feel strongly about keeping GFS accessible and welcoming for all. The last time our membership prices increased was 2018. The refrain we all hear from businesses – and feel in our personal lives – is about rising costs due to inflation, which is the main factor for our increase. GFS has a responsibility to care for our sculpture collection, to care for the grounds aka our “living collection,” and care for the people who work here by maintaining a living wage. We are always investing in our exhibitions, programs, and other areas that help improve GFS now and for the future.

We know that the increase makes GFS more expensive, but we want to assure you that we are continuing our commitment to EDI (equity, diversity, inclusion) and access. It actually costs GFS about \$40 per visitor, but as a nonprofit we subsidize that difference from the \$25 admission price. We will continue to maintain our Families First Discovery Pass Program and Art-Reach ACCESS Program to allow low-income households or those with disabilities to engage with arts and culture. We partner with our corporate sponsors of *Night Forms* to provide over 950 free tickets to our community partners each year, as well as offer discounts for veterans and active military, healthcare workers, students, and seniors.

Without our members, none of this would be possible. Your loyalty and support keep GFS going. On behalf of our entire staff and leadership, thank you for being a part of our community. We look forward to welcoming all of you this season for our new Perspectives Series exhibitions and throughout the year at our full calendar [groundsforsculpture.org/calendar](https://groundsforsculpture.org/calendar) of new programs and events.

## Outdoor Equity Alliance | Kwanzaa

GFS is a proud member of the Outdoor Equity Alliance (OEA) which is comprised of the Mercer County Park Commission, local land trusts, nonprofits, service organizations, and school officials throughout Mercer County partnering to create experiences that inform and inspire people of all ages, ethnicities, abilities, and income levels to enjoy nature and the outdoors.

On December 29, 2022, GFS hosted a fundraiser for the OEA to coincide with the 4th day of Kwanzaa, Ujamaa, focused on the principal of ‘Cooperative Economics’ – to build our own businesses, control the economics of our own community, and share in all its work and wealth. More than one hundred guests enjoyed the grounds and celebrated in the Museum Building with the Roberto Lugo exhibition, music, and food. We welcome the continued partnership with the Outdoor Equity Alliance to increase exposure and passion of horticulture to community members of Mercer County. (*cont.*)



### About Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a secular, non-religious, holiday, whose name translates from Swahili to “first fruits,” referencing the holiday’s roots in traditional harvest festivals. Instead of centering on religious traditions, Kwanzaa focuses on culture, community, and family. Kwanzaa is celebrated seven days from December 26 to January 1.

### About the Outdoor Equity Alliance (OEA)

The OEA’s mission is to create and implement attractive, accessible, and equitable educational and academic experiences and career opportunities for people of all ages, races and ethnicities, income levels and abilities, with a focus on people of color and other marginalized communities, to enjoy nature and become stewards of the outdoors and provide an avenue for deeper engagement in the environmental sector.

## Join our Legacy Society

To thank you for supporting our future, we want to make it easier to support yours. Grounds For Sculpture has partnered with [FreeWill](#): an online estate planning tool. We’re sharing this resource with our community to make this important task simple and 100% free. And if you choose, make our work a part of your legacy. Over 740,000 people have used FreeWill to create a will and support the causes they love.

Many friends of GFS create a gift in their estate plan to sustain, maintain, and protect our grounds. These gifts cost nothing today but ensure future generations of visitors can enjoy the magic of our gardens and galleries. In thanks, you’ll also be invited to join our Legacy Society.

By using FreeWill, you can:

- Make an estate plan 100% for free to protect the people and assets you value
- Create a legacy gift that protects our art, horticulture, and programming
- Ensure GFS can share the magic of art and nature with future generations of visitors

To get started, simply visit [freewill.com/groundsforsculpture](https://freewill.com/groundsforsculpture) and follow the steps. If GFS is already in your estate plans, please let us know so that we can include you in the Legacy Society. If you have any questions whatsoever, please reach out to Marissa Reibstein, Chief Development Officer, [mreibstein@groundsforsculpture.org](mailto:mreibstein@groundsforsculpture.org) or 609.249.0233.

## From Our Grounds to Yours: A Behind the Scenes Look at the GFS Annual Plant Sale

Cat Swiderski | Horticulture Assistant

Now in its fourth year, the GFS Annual Plant Sale gives members and visitors the unique opportunity to purchase interesting and unusual plants while also providing support for the horticulture program. The Plant Sale is an exciting event that we look forward to every year, but not many realize just how much work goes into making it a success! Many of the plants offered at the Plant Sale are grown on the grounds by the horticulture staff and the planning for next year begins almost immediately after the sale.

Did you know that the horticulture staff propagates approximately 2,000 plants every year in preparation for the Plant Sale? The work begins in the summer, as the horticulture staff begins to take cuttings and produce new plants via vegetative propagation. With vegetative propagation, we are using a single leaf or stem cutting to produce a whole new plant! The length of time for the rooted cutting to reach a saleable-sized plant varies – growing a succulent from a leaf cutting, for example, may take several months. In addition to succulents, the horticulture staff will also propagate tropical plants, cacti, woody plants, and perennials via cuttings throughout the summer, fall, and winter months. Another year-long project is harvesting seed and seedlings from our more interesting trees and shrubs on the grounds and growing these in our nursery and greenhouse.

Starting in January, we begin propagating plants from seed, including a wide variety of annual bedding plants, vegetables, herbs, and perennials. Last year, we grew over 1,400 plants from seed alone! Most of these seed-grown plants



Seedlings growing in the greenhouse



Succulent propagation is a year-round project



Seeds beginning to germinate

are sold at the plant sale, but a number of them are planted out on the grounds during spring and summer. If you see a plant on the grounds that you’re interested in, be sure to ask us about it as it may be offered at the Plant Sale. One of our favorite aspects of the Plant Sale is connecting with our members and visitors over a shared love and appreciation of horticulture. Whether you’re a seasoned grower or just beginning your gardening journey, feel free to stop and chat with us – we’re always happy to talk plants!

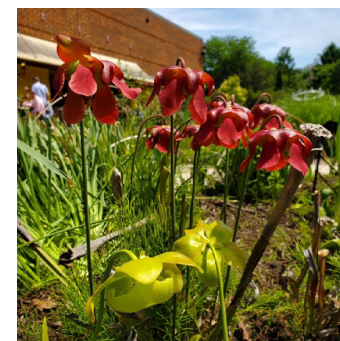
## Bloom Watch (May–August 2023)

Cat Swiderski | Horticulture Assistant

Spring is turning to summer and the garden is a bounty of floral fragrances and vibrant colors. Our seasonal showstoppers such as roses, hydrangeas, waterlilies, and lotus often dazzle many visitors. But the grounds are filled with so many more late spring and summer treasures – as you stroll the grounds this season, be sure not to miss these other intriguing garden stunners!

### MAY

Did you know that GFS has a bog garden with a collection of carnivorous pitcher plants? *Sarracenia* spp. are a fascinating group of plants native to North America. While you may be familiar with the highly specialized leaves of pitcher plants that have evolved to trap and digest insects, have you ever noticed their unusual flowers? In shades of vibrant greens and reds, these flowers make their appearance in May, lining the path of the Van Gogh Pond. Fun fact: *Sarracenia* flowers have evolved for cross-pollination and have separate entry and exit points for pollinators. This prevents self-pollination and encourages the genetic diversity of these carnivorous beauties.



*Sarracenia* spp. blooming in the Bog Garden in May



Close-up of a panicle of Red Horsechestnut flowers

And now for something completely different! May also brings the blooming of our Red Horsechestnut tree (*Aesculus x carnea*). The tree, which is adjacent to the Blue Atlas Cedar hedge, puts on a stunning display at this time of year. Graceful panicles of pinkish-red flowers cover the tree from top to bottom and are attractive to pollinators such as bees and hummingbirds. *Aesculus x carnea* is a hybrid between two different species of horsechestnut, *A. hippocastanum* and *A. pavia*. This is a very old hybrid, originating in Europe in the early 1800s.





Illicium x 'Woodland Ruby' blooming in Fairgrounds Woods



Eastern Prickly Pear Cactus in bud and bloom along the SJCA

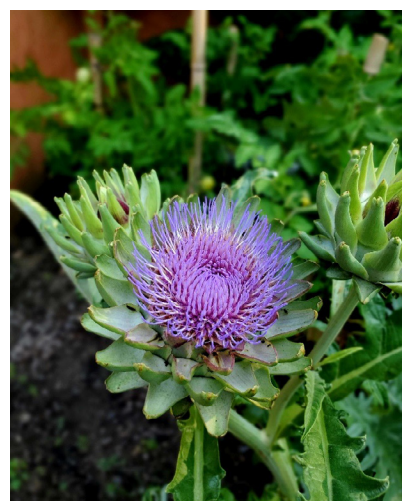
## JULY

By the time we reach mid-summer, you may notice spikes of purple flowers around the ponds near the SJCA. These tall fluffy blossoms are *Liatris spicata*, commonly known as Blazing Star. This beautiful native perennial adds colorful vertical interest to the garden and is very attractive to pollinators. If you're a butterfly lover, be sure to check out the *Liatris* this summer – it is known as a “butterfly magnet” and serves as an excellent source of nectar for monarchs and swallowtails.

A relatively new addition to the garden, the horticulture team has been cultivating Cardoons (*Cynara cardunculus*) and Green Globe Artichokes (*Cynara scolymus*) both for our annual Plant Sale and for planting on the grounds. These plants are closely related cousins and have proven to be hardy perennials for us, re-emerging after the last two winters. The large, glowing purple flowers are very attractive to pollinators, especially bumble bees. You'll find Cardoons and Artichokes blooming near the Van Gogh pond and in the Herb Garden.



A monarch butterfly nectaring on *Liatris spicata* near the Van Gogh pond



An Artichoke in bloom in the Herb Garden at Rat's

## AUGUST

*Magnolia sieboldii*, commonly known as the Oyama Magnolia, seems to go somewhat under the radar as far as magnolias go, so let's take a closer look at it here. The Oyama Magnolia is a small deciduous tree that can be found along the Lotus Pond edge and in Rat's, near *Viral Art*. It will start blooming in late spring/early summer, bloom sporadically throughout the season, and then have another bloom as we approach fall. The lovely nodding flowers are creamy white, have crimson stamens, and a pleasing lemony fragrance. If you miss the flowers on *Magnolia sieboldii* earlier in the season, now is a good time to check for more as fall approaches.

Another late summer bloom to behold is that of *Hibiscus coccineus*, or Scarlet Rosemallow, which grows along the edge of the Van Gogh Pond. This hardy, native hibiscus has a tall, stately presence (up to six feet tall!) and adds architectural interest to the garden. Unlike other hibiscus you may be familiar with, the flower petals do not overlap – they are held separately, giving this particular hibiscus flower a more elegant look. Pollinators find this deeply saturated scarlet flower very attractive, particularly butterflies and ruby-throated hummingbirds.



An Oyama Magnolia flower beginning to open



The vibrant red flower of *Hibiscus coccineus*

## JOHNSON ATELIER EXHIBITIONS

Seward Johnson delighted in creating a sense of wonder and discovery. Art, music, theater, dance, poetry, and food were all the things Seward loved – all which involved connecting with people. When placing artwork, we try to recreate the whimsy that Seward embodied. He believed in bringing people together while making interesting and meaningful connections. Through exhibitions, our goal is to highlight what a community is already doing and what makes it so special by weaving Johnson sculpture into the fabric of the hosts' everyday, while creating accessible, but impactful, opportunities for creative exploration and growth. Below you will find the communities celebrating with Seward Johnson exhibitions. Please be sure to check out all they are doing by visiting their websites.

**Seward Johnson | Haddonfield Outdoor Sculpture Trust**  
Haddonfield, NJ | Dec 2022 - Dec 1, 2023 | *Weekend Painter*

**Seward Johnson | Celebrating the Everyday**  
Hopewell Valley Arts Council  
The Pennington School, Pennington, NJ  
*India Blake Johnson and Seward Johnson: The Bond of Inspiration*  
Jan 17 - Mar 30, 2023 | Opening: Feb 9, 6-8 PM

Hopewell Valley, NJ  
May - Nov 2023

St. Michael Preserve, Hopewell Twp, NJ  
Opening May 21, 11AM-12PM: *The Awakening*  
\* *Edition V* will be installed in Hopewell in collaboration with the D&R Land Trust. *Grounds For Sculpture* will still have an edition installed in the Meadow



**Seward Johnson | Celebrating the Familiar**  
Trenton Downtown Association  
Trenton, NJ | May 5 - Oct 31, 2023

**Seward Johnson | Celebrating the Familiar**  
MayFair Business Improvement District  
Philadelphia, PA | Apr 1 - Oct 1, 2023

**Seward Johnson | Second Annual Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition**  
Public Art Bridgeville | Bridgeville, PA | Apr 2023 - Mar 2024

**Seward Johnson | Sculpture in the Park**  
St. Charles Park District | St. Charles, IN | Apr - Oct 2023 (cont.)

**Seward Johnson | Memorial Park 75th Anniversary**  
Omaha Parks Foundation | Omaha, NE | May 1 - Nov 15, 2023  
Opening June 4: *Embracing Peace*

**Seward Johnson | The 19th Annual Sculpture Garden exhibit**  
Kemp Center for The Arts | Wichita Falls, TX  
May 13, 2023 - May 10, 2024 | *Far Out*

**Seward Johnson | Celebrating the Familiar**  
New Brunswick City Center | New Brunswick, NJ | May - Oct 2023

**Seward Johnson | Art in the Parks! Play for All**  
Township of Lower Makefield with AOY Art Center | Yardley, PA  
June 1 - Sept 1, 2023

**Seward Johnson/Arts in the Park**  
Wildwood and Wildwood Crest, NJ | June - Nov 2023

**Seward Johnson | The Willowood Arboretum**  
Gladstone, NJ  
July 1 - Nov 18, 2023

## JOHNSON ATELIER EXPERIENCES

Seward Johnson, through his artwork and Atelier, creates a sense of play, experimentation, and risk-taking. Push yourself to think differently and be mindful as you learn processes that span any medium, of alternative casting and finishing methods, or have us tailor something for you, all while channeling the inspiration of your surroundings. Explore and grow via these opportunities offered throughout the year:

[sewardjohnsonatelier.org/category/upcoming-event-workshop](https://sewardjohnsonatelier.org/category/upcoming-event-workshop)

### Resin Casting - Two Part Moldmaking

Wednesdays 5/10-5/31, first class 5:30-9:30 PM, remaining classes 5:30-8:30 PM | Member/Student: \$375, Non-Member \$390

In this 4-week beginner to intermediate class, participants will learn the process involved in making a two-part silicone mold. A small sculpture will be modeled in clay and, from this pattern, a mold will be prepared. Each participant will demold and cold cast their own artwork in aluminum or tinted resin. Each silicone mold will be reusable and can be used for a variety of applications, including during the lost wax process. Fee includes all necessary tools and materials. Instructor: Nick Valenza, Production Lead of Paint, Patina and Preservation at The Seward Johnson Atelier \* Participants must be 16+





Drawing in Space with Wire

Wednesdays 6/14-6/28, 6-8:30PM  
Member/Student: \$135, Non-Member: \$150

Wire can be a fantastically accessible material - with minimal tools, or even just your hands, an intricate structure can be made. In this 3-week workshop, participants can anticipate, and use as inspiration, a brief history of wire-use in sculpture, as they fabricate a wire self-portrait. The elements learned will be helpful for making models for future works, as interior structures, or as the work itself. Materials and tools supplied. Instructor: Mike Benevenia, Installation Lead of Metal Department at The Seward Johnson Atelier

\* All experience levels welcome. Participants must be 16+

Found Objects -  
Painting inspired by Seward Johnson

Saturday, June 24, 9AM-1PM  
Member/Student: \$135, Non-Member: \$155

A very rare and unique opportunity, explore color theory and composition inside Seward Johnson's personal studio. Using the unusual medium of painted trays featured in Johnson's Midnight Snack Art collection as inspiration, participants will experiment and delve into the versatility of acrylic paint in his natural light-filled studio, housing many paintings and maquettes never before seen in public and beautiful views of Grounds For Sculpture.

Beginning in the 1960's, Seward Johnson's painted trays have provided a mixture of utility and hobby, embodying the artist's search for warmth and contentment. Favorite subjects to explore were memories, painted with watercolor-like washes, and scenes from his home and farm in Hopewell, NJ, in sculptural impasto techniques.

Primed and ready found objects and metal trays available for use. Recommended supply list to be provided. Feel free to BYOB and snacks to enjoy. \* All experience levels welcome. Participants must be 16+

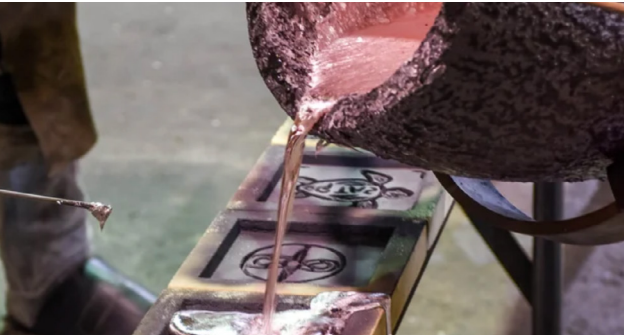


Scratchmold Kit with Virtual Pour

Drop off mold by - July 28, Pour to be scheduled - week of July 31  
Drop off mold by - Sept 22, Pour to be scheduled - week of Sept 25 - \$50

Participate in an aluminum casting event while creating your own low-relief sculpture! Curbside pick-up only - prerecorded tutorial, 6"x6" resin-bonded sand mold, simple tools, and materials will be provided for your casting to take shape. We encourage you to experiment with various tools to find and make your desired mark. Finished molds should be dropped off to the Johnson Atelier for pour preparation. The pour will be recorded for viewing at your leisure. Castings will be finished with an aluma black finish.

\* All experience levels welcome



Patina Techniques II

Saturday, August 12, 11-4PM  
Member/Student: \$200, Non-Member \$215

An advanced and hands-on workshop exploring surface finishes and patina applications. Participants can expect to learn more in-depth details of hot and cold patina processes, including the formulation of a vast array of hues and two-part patinas and overlays. Respirators, sample blocks and objects for demonstration and experimentation will be available, but participants should feel free to bring their own mask and small bronze or aluminum artwork. Instructor: Megan Uhaze Wear, Restoration Lead of Paint, Patina and Preservation at The Seward Johnson Atelier \*Prior experience encouraged. Participants must be 16+

Latex Mask Making

Wednesdays 10/4-10/25, first class 5:30-9:30PM,  
remaining classes 5:30-8:30PM | Member/Student: \$250, Non-Member \$270

Get Halloween-ready with this 4-week introduction class to Latex Mask Making. Participants will sculpt a half face on a head armature and will be guided through the moldmaking processes. Learn setup and preparation, safety, and basic trouble shooting issues. By the final class, participants will be able to pull their unique latex mask and paint and decorate it to scare away the night's ghouls. Fee includes all necessary tools and materials. Instructor: Nick Valenza, Production Lead of Paint, Patina and Preservation at The Seward Johnson Atelier \* Participants must be 16+

Metalworking and Welding

Tuesdays 10/17-11/14, 6-8:30pm  
Member/Student: \$345, Non-Member: \$375

Experiment with steel during this unique multi-part studio workshop. This 5-week introduction to metalworking and welded sculpture is focused on creative exploration with steel. Students will learn multiple arc-welding processes, plasma and oxy-acetylene cutting, sanding & grinding, and other techniques while creating a sculpture of their own design. Fee includes all necessary tools and materials, including gloves, disposable welding respirators, safety glasses, and 25 pounds of steel per participant. Instructor: Mike Benevenia, Installation Lead of Metal Department at The Seward Johnson Atelier

- What to wear: Long pants & long sleeve shirt (98-100% cotton), no wool or synthetic materials/blends such as polyester or nylon. All leather shoes or boots (boots preferred), no synthetic materials. Long hair should be pulled back or tucked under a cotton cap. \* Participants must be 16+

Coniferous Relief Casting

Nov 11 & Nov 18, 1-3:30pm  
Member/Student: \$145, Non-Member: \$160



Join us for a unique aluminum casting event! Fragments of winter should be gathered prior to the first class to create your aluminum relief. We recommend looking through the hardy brush found on your local terrain during this season for textured objects, such as leaves and greenery, bark and moss, seed pods and berries.


A 6"x6" sandmold will ultimately be created from this collage of collected vegetation and miscellanea. Participants will take part in the mold pour prep and the aluma black patina of each casting. \*All experience levels welcome

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.

