



G R O U N D S F O R S C U L P T U R E

Grounds For Sculpture Now Exhibiting Petah Coyne's *Untitled #1383 (Sisters – Two Trees)*, 2013-2023

The Large-Scale Installation Is on View Now Through March 2, 2025

Hamilton, NJ – October 10, 2024 - Grounds For Sculpture (GFS) today announced that Petah Coyne's *Untitled #1383 (Sisters – Two Trees)* is currently on view in its Museum Building through March 2, 2025. The large-scale sculpture is on loan from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA), which is sharing this work from its permanent collection through Art Bridges Foundation's Partner Loan Network. Created using unconventional materials such as apple trees and taxidermized peacocks, *Untitled #1383 (Sisters – Two Trees)* compares and contrasts elegantly with the garden landscape of GFS. The view from inside the gallery looks out upon the gardens, inviting opportunities for deeper discussions on nature, climate, temporality, and whimsy. These core themes underscore the inherent interplay between sculpture and landscape, a cornerstone of GFS Founder, Seward Johnson's, vision for the park.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to exhibit *Untitled #1383 (Sisters – Two Trees)* at Grounds For Sculpture," said Kathleen Greene, Chief Audience Officer at Grounds For Sculpture. "This work's use of unconventional, yet natural, materials enable us to expand the experience of contemporary sculpture at GFS while considering key themes surrounding nature, preservation, and fantasy. We are very grateful to both PAFA and Art Bridges for their support in presenting this installation to our community, which will help us deepen our engagement with key stakeholders and forge a relationship with our peer institution, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts."

In *Untitled #1383 (Sisters – Two Trees)*, flora and fauna are brought together in a reverential yet imaginative way. The installation's central element is made from two real trees that were cut and reformed to create one large branching shape that is 15 feet high and 25 feet wide. Upon the branches, Coyne places more than a dozen taxidermized peacocks. Surrounding the tree are floral elements, which rest on the branches and on the floor around its base. Peacocks are a reoccurring theme throughout literature and folklore, where they are often used to represent many different ideas and concepts. Coyne incorporates these birds often in her work, and she notes their association in Irish folklore with escorting the dead to the afterlife.

“We are excited to partner with Grounds For Sculpture to bring Petah Coyne’s remarkable work, *Untitled #1383 (Sisters – Two Trees)*, to the sculpture park,” says Art Bridges CEO Anne Kraybill. “This collaboration highlights our ongoing mission to share significant works of American art with diverse audiences, fostering reflection and engagement.”

Untitled #1383 (Sisters – Two Trees) was recently presented at a joint exhibition *Rising Sun: Artists in an Uncertain America* between PAFA and the African American Museum in Philadelphia. As one of the joint exhibition’s 20 participating contemporary artists, Coyne was asked to consider the question, “Is the sun rising or setting on the experiment of American democracy?” This prompt was inspired by the words of Benjamin Franklin and the lyrics from James Weldon Johnson’s Black National Anthem, *Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing*.

Petah Coyne is a contemporary American artist who works in varied and nontraditional materials including her own specially formulated wax, taxidermy, human hair, scrap metal, silk flowers, and religious statuary. Art history, family memories, and literature often inspire her work, drawing from a large pool of different sources, from Margaret Atwood’s *Alias Grace* to Miss Havisham from Charles Dickens’ *Great Expectations*. Her arrangement of material and juxtaposition of mediums to create large-scale installations, for which she is best known, often evoke themes of life and death, triumph and loss, chaos and stillness, and beauty and darkness.

Petah Coyne’s sculpture *Untitled #1383 (Sisters – Two Trees)* is on loan from Art Bridges. Support is provided in part by the Atlantic Foundation, funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

About Petah Coyne

Petah Coyne (b. 1953, Oklahoma City, OK) attended Kent State University from 1972-1973. In 1977, she graduated from the Art Academy of Cincinnati. Her work has been the subject of more than 30 solo museum exhibitions, including *Petah Coyne: Everything That Rises Must Converge*, Mass MoCA, North Adams, MA (2010) and *Petah Coyne: Above and Beneath the Skin* at Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO (2005). Her work resides in numerous permanent museum collections including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Brooklyn Museum, New York; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, California; Museum of Contemporary Art KIASMA, Finland; and many others. She is the past

recipient of grants from the Pollock Krasner Foundation, Anonymous was a Woman, and the Guggenheim Foundation. In 2024 she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Sculpture Center. She is represented by Galerie Lelong & Co and NuNu Fine Art, Taiwan.

About Art Bridges Foundation

Art Bridges Foundation is the vision of philanthropist and arts patron Alice Walton. Since 2017, Art Bridges has created and supported projects that bring outstanding works of American art out of storage and into communities across the United States and its territories. Art Bridges partners with a growing network of more than 240 museums of all sizes on nearly 900 projects—impacting 5.3 million people nationwide—to provide financial and strategic support for exhibitions, collection loans, and programs designed to educate, inspire, and deepen engagement with local communities. The Art Bridges Collection represents an expanding vision of American art from the 19th century to present day and encompasses multiple media and voices. For more information, visit artbridgesfoundation.org.

About Grounds For Sculpture

Grounds For Sculpture (GFS) is a 42-acre not-for-profit sculpture park, arboretum, and museum, founded by the late Seward Johnson. Featuring over 300 contemporary sculptures by renowned and emerging artists in a beckoning, ever-changing landscape, Grounds For Sculpture combines art and nature to surprise, inspire, and engage visitors from all backgrounds in the artist's act of invention. In addition to its permanent collection, Grounds For Sculpture offers exhibitions in six indoor galleries, alongside experiential art, horticulture, and wellness programs for all ages. Located in Hamilton, New Jersey, Grounds For Sculpture is easily accessible from the New York City and Philadelphia metropolitan areas by public transit and is open year-round. For more information, visit groundsforsculpture.org.

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Media Contact

Lauren Collalto

Press Office, Grounds For Sculpture

press@groundsforsculpture.org