



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



Grounds For Sculpture and Johnson Atelier to Merge, Creating an Epicenter for Curation, Fabrication, and Restoration; and Fulfilling the Vision of Artist and Founder Seward Johnson

Hamilton, NJ — May 28, 2025 — Today, [Grounds For Sculpture](#) and [Johnson Atelier](#) announce that the institutions will officially operate as one unified body, forming a dynamic new catalyst for the production, conservation, and exhibition of large-scale, high-caliber contemporary sculpture and amplified art experiences.

Grounds For Sculpture will assume management and operations of Johnson Atelier and its state of the art modeling, scanning, milling, painting and finishing capabilities, along with its assets including the seven acre Meadow; the physical plant that houses the Johnson Atelier; the Motor Exhibits Building, which currently houses studios for 25 artists; and apartments for guest artists.

This union cements artist and founder Seward Johnson's legacy, and his vision for Grounds For Sculpture and Johnson Atelier to work as one. With these pioneering institutions operating under one organization, Grounds For Sculpture is set to usher in a new era of artistic synergy, and expanding impact, recognition, and artist support on a global scale.

What's more, this strategic integration represents an enterprising business model: a nonprofit sculpture park operating a revenue-generating sculpture fabrication business. Grounds For Sculpture can expand its ability to produce work that can be exhibited on its own campus, and facilitate the production of work for venues around the world, allowing the organization to go beyond its gates and deliver on its mission to make sculpture and public art broadly accessible.

"Seward Johnson desired to make the impossible possible while working outside of the confines of traditional art systems and structures," said Eric B. Ryan, President, Grounds For Sculpture Board of Trustees. "What Seward built in his lifetime was meant to be flexible and responsive to changing needs and cultural shifts in the world at large. This forward-looking spirit has allowed his contributions to evolve over time, remaining relevant to contemporary audiences and creators; and it has led us to where we are today with this merger."

Rooted in Seward's radical approach to discovery and making the arts available to all, Grounds For Sculpture and Johnson Atelier have given artists unprecedented access to tools for sculpture production, inviting the public to engage with contemporary sculpture collections and exhibitions for half a century. Founded in 1974 to help sculptors retain control over their artwork, and to open access to previously guarded information on production techniques, Johnson Atelier is an incubator for artists from across the globe to grow their practices freely through collaboration, and with innovative production techniques and technology. Over the last five decades, apprentices have had the opportunity to hone their skills while working with established artists including Georgia O'Keeffe, George Segal, Michele Oka Doner, William King, Marisol, Red Grooms, Toshiko Takaezu, and Joel Shapiro.

With an eye on expansion, Seward envisioned Grounds For Sculpture as a place to show the work of the Atelier's clients, and where visitors could delight in discovering contemporary sculpture and immersive art experiences. Founded in 1992, the sculpture park encompasses 42 acres of stunning gardens surrounding indoor and outdoor galleries for internationally renowned artists to showcase their work to audiences near and far. More than 700 artists have had their work on view at Grounds For Sculpture and the collection currently contains over 500 pieces of art by 240 artists including Seward Johnson's own works, along with those by Anthony Caro, Willie Cole, Masayuki Koorida, Tallur L.N., Jae Ko, Roberto Lugo, Clement Meadmore, and Joyce J. Scott.

Over 40% of the artwork on view at Grounds For Sculpture has been produced at Johnson Atelier by artists ranging from Magdalena Abakanowicz, Beverly Pepper, George Segal, Kiki Smith, Michele Oka Doner,

Tom Otterness, Roberto Lugo, and a rare work in bronze by Marisol. As such, the formal unification of Grounds For Sculpture and Johnson Atelier builds on decades of connectivity and cross pollination and further ignites the historic connection that will evolve in the decades to come.

“This integration allows for Johnson Atelier to more effectively cultivate relationships with artists who can add to the permanent collection of Grounds For Sculpture; and it better positions Grounds For Sculpture to feed Johnson Atelier’s project pipeline with artist residencies and off-campus programming that increase the artists’ — and Grounds For Sculpture’s — reach with global audiences,” said Gary Garrido Schneider, Executive Director, Grounds For Sculpture.

The opportunity for artists to grow their practice is endless. With projects like artist Martin Puryear’s *Big Bling* at Madison Square Park, Adrián Villar Rojas’ Roof Garden Commission *The Theatre of Disappearance* at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Kiyan Williams’ *Ruins of Empire II or The Earth Swallows the Masters House* for the Whitney Museum - Whitney Biennial, Johnson Atelier has built a reputation for impactful, large-scale art experiences of the highest caliber. Now, by integrating the Atelier’s resources into the day-to-day operations, Grounds For Sculpture has unparalleled capacity to handle complex and substantial art installations. Ultimately, the result of this union will be a singular, distinct model that best positions Grounds For Sculpture as a leader in supporting a globally diverse generation of artists and continues connecting their work to a broad public audience.

“This unification of Grounds For Sculpture and Johnson Atelier is just as much a win for artists and the contemporary arts industry as it is for the members and visitors who will benefit from an enhanced cultural experience, with more opportunities to engage with internationally renowned artists and their process,” said Kathleen Greene, Chief Audience Officer, Grounds For Sculpture.

The transfer of assets was made possible by The Seward Johnson Atelier (TSJA), the nonprofit dedicated to promoting the appreciation of sculpture and public art. As the exclusive copyright owner of Johnson’s sculptures, TSJA will continue to steward Seward Johnson’s legacy through exhibitions, artwork loans, and the sale of Seward Johnson’s artworks. Through these efforts, TSJA remains committed to educating the public about Johnson’s artistic contributions and ensuring his sculptures remain accessible to audiences worldwide.

Image credit: Dina Wind, *Harp of David #1*, 1985/2018, mild steel, 26 ft x 24 ft x 22 ft, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of the Dina Wind Art Foundation, © Artist or Artist's Estate, photo: Ken Ek

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 groundsfor Sculpture.org.

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