



FALL/WINTER 2026

NEWSCASTING

Grounds For Sculpture's publication for members and volunteers

**SHANTELL
MARTIN.**

Past,
Present,
Future.

Members Visit Without
Reservations!

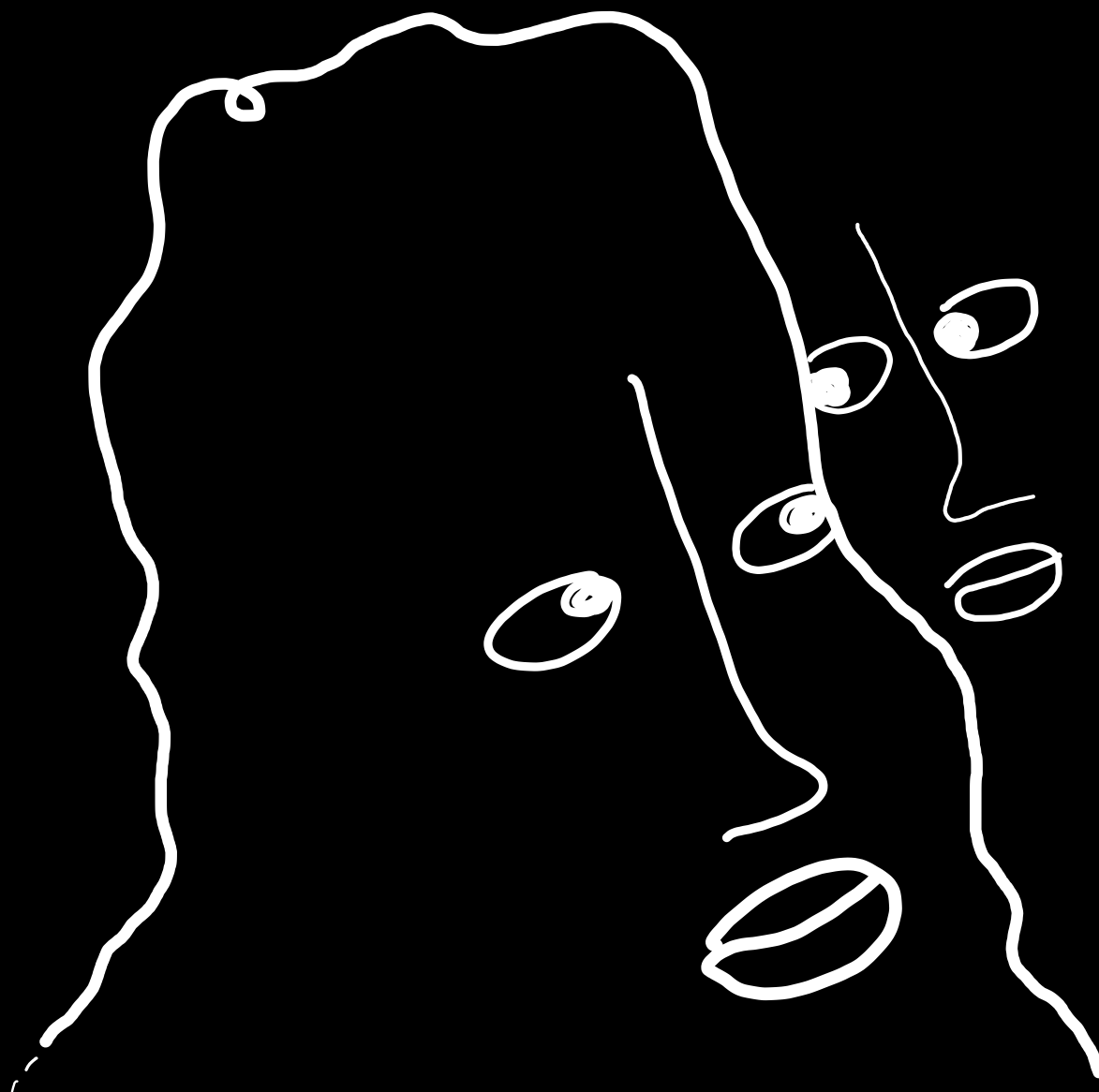
Explore the GFS Collection with
eMuseumPlus

On Poppied Hill Garden
Renovation

Artists
in Action

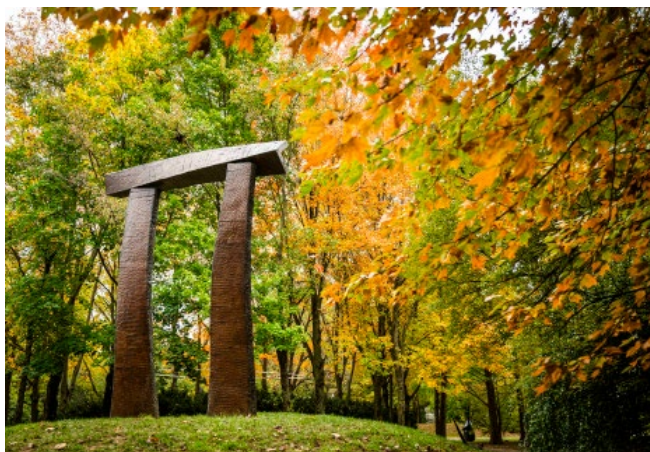
Member
Events

... and
more!



SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER

WELCOME



Dear Members,

As summer gives way to fall, I am always reminded that this season is as much about new beginnings as it is about reflection. The rhythms of September can feel like a new year of their own, bringing fresh energy, renewed curiosity, and an opportunity to look ahead while appreciating all that has brought us to this moment. Fall launches the season of gratitude, and I find myself especially thankful for the remarkable community that gathers here at Grounds For Sculpture.

This fall, one of the highlights of our season is our new exhibition in the West Gallery, *Shantell Martin: Past, Present, Future*, which you can see for the first time at Member Preview Day on September 19. Shantell's bold, playful, and thought-provoking work invites us to reflect on where we've been, where we are, and where we are going, questions that feel especially fitting as we enter a new season. I am excited to welcome you into this immersive exhibition and to see the many ways it sparks conversation, reflection, and creativity.

I am particularly proud that Grounds For Sculpture and Johnson Atelier provided the setting for another milestone in Shantell's career: the fabrication of her first large-scale sculpture. To be installed along our main loop, the work titled *BENN* represents a spirit of artistic exploration and growth that defines our mission. It is a powerful example of what can happen when artists are given the space, support, and encouragement to explore new possibilities.

As we move through the final months of the year, I want to thank you for being part of this community. Your visits, membership, generosity, and enthusiasm make everything we do possible. This is *your* Grounds For Sculpture, and together we continue to cultivate a place where art, nature, and people can thrive. I hope you'll join us throughout the season and, as you consider your year-end giving, help ensure that this special place remains vibrant and welcoming for generations to come.

With gratitude,


Gary Garrido Schneider
Executive Director



HOURS THIS SEASON

Starting September 7:

General Hours | 10AM - 5PM | Wednesday – Monday | Closed Tuesdays

NEW! All members enjoy spontaneous visits, without a reservation, every day!

Planning ahead?

RESERVE YOUR VISIT: groundsforsculpture.org/tickets

The Access Mobile tour is a 45-minute tour that is available daily for visitors with disabilities or limited mobility. The cart can accommodate either a maximum of five people OR four people and a wheelchair. Tours are scheduled at 11AM, 12PM, 2PM, and 3PM. You can reserve seats for the guest who needs it + one additional guest (additional guests may join the tour at the guide's discretion). Reservations strongly recommended two weeks in advance by calling 609.586.0616.

Touch tours are available for groups with individuals who are blind or have low vision. These docent-led experiences engage participants with a variety of outdoor sculptures that can be explored tactilely. **ASL tours** are available for groups with individuals who are d/Deaf. **Requests for tours** require advance notice (minimum 2 weeks' notice). For more information, please contact us at access@groundsforsculpture.org or 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!

NEW! Visiting us from Trenton? **GoTrenton!** will drop off and pick up at Grounds For Sculpture during their operating hours – Check the service map and request a ride!

Discover something new or learn more about a longtime favorite!

Explore our collection of 300+ works on our [website](#), at [eMuseumPlus](#) (learn more on page 12!), and on our [interactive map](#), which features sculpture and horticulture throughout the art-filled gardens, as well as an [audio tour](#) offering docent interpretations of 29 sculptures and two historical spots. View our [Tool Box](#) with self-guided activities to enhance your next visit, including Art Adventure Backpacks!

[SIGN UP FOR GFS E-NEWS](#)

CONNECT WITH GFS!
[@GROUNDSFORSCULPTURE](#)





Member Discounts

GFS members receive a 10% discount on dining at the Van Gogh Café, Peacock Cantina, and Rat's Restaurant (for parties up to 8), recently named one of "The 50 Most Beautiful Restaurants in America." The discount also applies to Rat's themed dinners and special programs throughout the year! Be sure to note "GFS Member" when making your reservation, and plan to show your digital membership card at check-out or to your server. View Rat's seasonal menu & events at ratsrestaurant.com.



Located in our Welcome Center, the **Museum Shop** at GFS offers a broad assortment of highly curated, unique, mission-specific gifts. From books to jewelry to children's products to home accessories and gourmet food, there is something for everyone! **Members enjoy 10% off all merchandise in the Museum Shop.**



Share the JOY of GFS with loved ones this holiday season!

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

Gift of Membership includes:

- Unlimited year-round spontaneous visits to GFS, without a reservation!
- One-time-use Guest Passes to share
- 10% discount at the Museum Shop and on dining at Rat's Restaurant, Peacock Cantina, and Van Gogh Café
- Free or discounted tickets to programs and events
- Invitations to Member Preview Days, special events, Members-Only tours, . . . and more!
- A limited-edition GFS Member pin

Gift a GFS Membership: groundsforsculpture.org/membership

Grounds For Sculpture is a registered nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. GFS Membership provides critical support to sustain our beautiful, art-filled gardens, educational programs, and exhibitions that enrich, surprise, and inspire so many.

GFS's Member Portal & Online Ticketing System

Grounds For Sculpture members use a **Member Portal**, a personalized space within the GFS website, to access their digital membership card(s), share guest passes, view and manage membership details, check scheduled visits, and more. Click here to access your Member Portal, or follow the steps to set up your account: portal.groundsforsculpture.org.

Purchasing tickets on the GFS website is now easier and faster than ever. Your **Online Account** allows you to conveniently reserve your visits, renew or upgrade your membership, register for programs, and receive your member discounts where applicable.

Bloomberg Philanthropies

This project was developed with the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies' Digital Accelerator for Arts and Culture.



VISIT US IN THE MEMBER LOUNGE!

Fall Hours as of 9/11: Friday–Sunday (11am–2pm)

Located in a bright corner of the Welcome Center next to the Van Gogh Café and overlooking the gardens, the Member Lounge is an inviting space for members to take a break with a complimentary refreshment. Read museum publications, take part in a puzzle or game, learn about upcoming programs, or connect with staff or a volunteer. [Explore drop-in programs in the Member Lounge](#)

MEMBER EVENTS

For more information or to register for these events, visit groundsforsculpture.org/calendar or call 609.586.0616

FAMILY PROGRAMS

September-December 2026

Join us on select Saturdays for drop-in *Family Open Studios* (all ages), *Tots for Sculpture* (ages 3-5), and *Creative Kiddos* (ages 6-8) to explore a variety of themed artmaking. On Mondays in September-October, enjoy *Stroller Tours* (ages 0-3), leisurely 30-minute kid-friendly tours paired with a creative artmaking activity. [Learn more about upcoming Family Programs](#)

Children's educational programming at Grounds For Sculpture is made possible by generous support from the Jirair S. and Elizabeth Hovnanian Family Foundation. Additional support is provided by PNC Foundation. Support is provided, in part, by Jenifer Morack and Schaefer/Batterman Family Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation.



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



MEMBER TRIP TO GLENSTONE

Thursday, September 10 (8:30am-8:30pm)

Join Gary Garrido Schneider, GFS Executive Director, and Grace Yasumura, Curator, on a special trip exploring the art, architecture, and landscape of *Glenstone*, a private modern and contemporary art museum in Potomac, Maryland. Our visit will include a very special greeting from Emily Wei Rales, Director and Co-Founder of Glenstone. This Members-Only trip is open to current and new GFS members. *Limited space!* Members-Only price \$125 includes round-trip coach transportation and entry to Glenstone. [Register now](#)

MEMBER PREVIEW DAY

Saturday, September 19 (10am-2pm)

Member Preview Day is an exclusive opportunity for GFS members to be among the first to explore the season, including new exhibition *Shantell Martin: Past, Present, Future*. Join us and participate in a variety of unique programming specifically designed to engage and inspire you!

Member Preview Day highlights include:

- Members-Only access starting at 10am
- Exclusive first look at the new exhibition
- Meet the Artist and Curator
- Hands-on artmaking
- Tai Chi session
- Docent-led Tours
- Access to the Member Lounge with complimentary beverages

Member Preview Day is celebrated rain or shine. Members may use their Guest Passes to bring additional guests. [View the program schedule](#)

MEMBERS' MUSINGS 2026: THEN, NOW, NEXT: 250 YEARS OF BECOMING

The 17th annual exhibition featuring artwork exclusively by GFS members. We look forward to seeing your submissions! Key dates:

- September 21 – October 12: Members submit entry online
- November 2: Notification of selections via email
- November 21, 2026 – February 7, 2027: Exhibition on view
- November 21 from 2-4pm: Opening Reception

[View the exhibition prospectus](#)

The Education Gallery at Grounds For Sculpture is supported, in part, by Stark & Stark.

**STARK
& STARK** PC



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



SWIRL: AN EVENING OF ART AND WINE

Friday, September 25

(Tour Times Beginning at 5pm to 6:40pm)

Embark on a docent-led tour through the gardens, where you'll discover five sculptures—each expertly paired with food and wine by the chef and sommelier at Rat's Restaurant. All funds raised from this event will support GFS's impressive sculpture collection, sprawling gardens, and dynamic public programming. [Learn more](#)

Swirl is supported, in part, by Capital Health and Charles Schwab. Additional support is provided by A-1 Tours, a division of A-1 Limousine, Arts In Action Consulting, Donna M. Murray SA Fox & Roach Realtors, Gallagher, Graduate by Hilton Princeton, Greencrown Energy, Mrs. G's Appliances, Princeton Marriott at Forrestal, TD Bank, and V.J. Scozzari & Sons.



capitalhealth



charles
SCHWAB



DONNA M. MURRAY
SA
FOX & ROACH
REALTORS



Gallagher
Insurance | Risk Management | Consulting



Graduate
by Hilton
PRINCETON



Greencrown
Energy



Life. Better.



MARRIOTT
PRINCETON
FORRESTAL



TD Bank



SCOZZARI

MEMBER MEET-UP AT ARTS COUNCIL OF PRINCETON

Tuesday, September 29 (3:30pm)

Meet us at ACP to view the exhibition *Echoes in Our Bones: The Empowering Legacy of Black Women Artists in American Art and Culture* and hear from the curators Judith K. Brodsky and Rhinold L. Ponder. [Learn more](#)

BUTTON MAKING IN THE MEMBER LOUNGE

Thursday, October 1 (12-1pm)

Drop by the Member Lounge to craft your own button and enjoy a complimentary beverage. [Learn more](#)

DIRECTOR'S TOAST

Sunday, October 18 (2-4pm)

An exclusive, free event for *Benefactor* level members. Get to know GFS leadership, toast the season together, and hear special updates from GFS Executive Director, Gary Garrido Schneider. Hosted by GFS Board Member Nick Pahade and Soni Pahade in Lawrenceville, NJ. [Learn more](#)

MEMBER TRIP TO STORM KING & DIA BEACON

Monday, October 19 (7:30am-8pm)

Join us for an artful, autumn day trip to two of the Hudson Valley's most vibrant art museums: *Storm King Art Center* and *Dia Beacon*. This Members-Only trip is open to current and new GFS members. *Limited space!* Members-Only price \$145 includes round-trip coach transportation, admission to both museums, and private tram tour. [Register now](#)

MEB OPEN STUDIO

Saturday, October 24 (10am-4pm)

Meet the artists who call GFS their creative home. Step inside their studios, ask questions, learn about their processes, and discover the stories behind their artwork. Free for members! [Learn more](#)

BEHIND THE SCENES AT JOHNSON ATELIER

Wednesday, November 18 (5:30-7pm)

Join us for a special tour of the sculpture fabrication and conservation facility located on the GFS campus. Hear from Johnson Atelier staff about recent projects and fascinating operations behind production and conservation of large-scale, high-caliber contemporary sculpture. Members-Only \$20; *Limited space!* [Register now](#)

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Saturday, November 21

Cozy up in the Member Lounge with complimentary coffee, tea, hot cocoa, and cookies, and make your own greeting card. Attend a gallery talk with Curatorial Staff of the current exhibition *Opening the Vault: A Look Inside the GFS Collection*. Enjoy 20% off in the Museum Shop and Van Gogh Café. Celebrate at the Opening Reception for our 17th annual *Members' Musings* exhibition *Then, Now, Next: 250 Years of Becoming*. [Learn more](#)

ARTISAN HOLIDAY MARKET

Saturday, November 28 (9am-5pm)

Sunday, November 29 (9am-4pm)

Members-Only early access from 9-10am on both days!

Discover a wide variety of talented artisans as a new curated shopping experience comes to GFS this fall. The market is the perfect one-stop shop for unique, locally made gifts and seasonal treats. [Learn more](#)

ORNAMENT MAKING IN THE MEMBER LOUNGE

Thursday, December 3 (11:30am-1pm)

Sunday, December 6 (10:30am-12pm)

Celebrate the season and make a winter ornament using air-dry clay and imprint tools. [Learn more](#)

MEMBERS-ONLY WREATH-MAKING

Saturday, December 5 (10:30am-12:30pm)

This two-hour workshop will teach you to assemble and decorate a wreath using natural materials collected from the garden at GFS. \$75 includes instruction by Horticulture staff + all materials. [Register now](#)

Explore [recurring wellness programs](#) like Tai Chi and Wellness Walks this fall, each with a member discount!

Access to Wellness Programming is made possible, in part, by Capital Health.



Discover the beauty of the autumnal changes throughout the garden on our [Horticulture tours](#).

Revitalize your space with stunning seasonal décor at one of our [hands-on workshops](#) led by GFS Horticulture staff.

Add a soundtrack to your visit with [live music at GFS](#)! The Midnighters Band, a local guitar and violin duo, are back to perform a wide repertoire of instrumental and vocal music on select Sundays (December 27, January 3, and February 14) this winter from 1-4pm.

REFLECTIONS



From Our Grounds to Yours: GFS's 7th Annual Plant Sale, held May 2-3, was our most successful to date, featuring more than 3,000 plants grown by the Horticulture team and record-breaking sales. As always, members enjoyed first access to the unique selection! For the first time, the sale was held indoors in the East Gallery, providing a comfortable, weather-proof shopping experience for all. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this annual tradition such a success. We look forward to welcoming you back for next year's Plant Sale on May 1-2, 2027.



Member Preview Day, Saturday, May 16, was an exclusive opportunity for GFS members to be among the first to explore the new exhibition Opening the Vault: A Look Inside the GFS Collection. Additional highlights of the day included *Artists in Action: MEB Artists' Open Studios*, three artmaking stations, two meditation workshops, opportunities to meet the staff curators, guided tours, and the talk *Power, Process, Practice: A Conversation with Salvador Jiménez-Flores and Grace Yasumura*. Attendance for the day was 1,692.



Isaac Witkin, *Garden State*, 1997, Zimbabwe black granite, 188 x 133 x 115 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of The Seward Johnson Atelier, © Estate of Isaac Witkin; Banner photo and Member Preview Day photo: David Michael Howarth Photography

This past summer, members took advantage of expanded Members-Only themed tours offered during Member Mornings cool temperatures and the 7pm golden hour on several Fridays. Tour topics included History of GFS, Hidden Gems of GFS, Female Sculptors, Love in Art, and *HortiSculpture*, a uniquely designed docent-led tour exploring the relationship between the art and landscaping at GFS. Offered year-round, Members-Only tours are free for all members. [Be sure to check the GFS calendar for our next Members-Only guided tours!](#)

On June 9, Sustainer and Benefactor members gathered for a very special behind-the-scenes tour at Johnson Atelier.

Members heard from Margaret Johnson, Managing Director at Johnson Atelier, and James Baylis, Director of Design & Fabrication, about recent projects and fascinating operations behind production and conservation of large-scale, high-caliber contemporary sculpture, complete with a demonstration of the facility's robotic arm!

On Saturday, July 18, members gathered for a Member Mingle in the Member Lounge with refreshments before attending *Creative Freedom: A Salon Experience featuring Marshall Allen, Salvador Jiménez-Flores, and Jamaaladeen Tacuma*. GFS partnered with [Third Way Cultural Alliance](#) for an evening ebbing and flowing between live performances and intimate conversation with the legendary Marshall Allen from Sun Ra Arkestra, avant-garde bassist Jamaaladeen Tacuma, and exhibiting artist Salvador Jiménez-Flores, discussing the importance of creative freedom, moderated by Nicole Sweeney of WRTI radio.



An annual favorite, the GFS Family Breakfast was hosted in the East Gallery on Saturday, August 8. GFS members at membership levels *Family* and above enjoyed breakfast and family-focused activities for all ages, including decorating and repotting their own succulent plant and a visit from our very own Perry the Peacock!

On August 26, Sustainer and Benefactor members attended Behind the Scenes with Shantell Martin, an exclusive talk and opportunity to meet the internationally renowned artist featured in the solo exhibition *Shantell Martin: Past, Present, Future*. Members learned about her inspirations and practice, as well as her upcoming site-specific installation at GFS and a new outdoor sculpture, *BENN*, commissioned for the exhibition.



Jesse Moore, *Sigh (The Morning You Left)*, 1993, poplar, steel, 92 x 108 x 72 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of The Seward Johnson Atelier;
Tallur L.N., *Obituary Note*, 2013, bronze, wood, 73 x 64 x 41 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Purchase, photo: David Michael Howarth Photography



SHANTELL MARTIN.

Past,
Present,
Future.

On view: September 20, 2026 – July 23, 2028

Kathleen Ogilvie Greene | Chief Audience Officer and
Curator of *Shantell Martin: Past, Present, Future*

Our upcoming exhibition – *Shantell Martin: Past, Present, Future* – is a playful exploration of creative practice and the connective thread of time. While the exhibition includes a mural, a two-year meditative practice, a community quilt, and an interactive space, I'd like to focus on *BENN*. *BENN* is part bird, part tree, and part human. He is a seed planter with the purpose of planting seeds in unexpected places; seeds of life, of ideas, of creativity. Not everyone wants new ideas, or growth, so *BENN* looks over his shoulder keeping an eye out as he does his work of planting seeds. *BENN* is always in movement, hence his wings are spread wide having just landed or about to depart from GFS. Standing seven feet tall and over six feet wide, he is also Martin's largest sculpture to date. This sculpture, created in partnership with the *Johnson Atelier*, will live on the main loop of our campus for the duration of the exhibition. *BENN* was first drawn at some point between 2004-2009. His image is from a series of Martin's long accordion sketchbook drawings called KOOBs (book spelled backwards). When Martin was asked, "What made you select this image from your past to pull into our world?", she shared the following:

"I chose *BENN* because I feel like my work right now is very much about seeds, seeds of messages, of questions, of phrases, of positivity. I wanted to bring a character to life from a point in my career and life before those seeds had even been planted or considered. It feels like the right time to bring *BENN* back, to continue planting those seeds, and to let others see, understand, and be part of that journey too."



Shantell Martin, digital rendering of *BENN*, 2026

The exhibition runs September 20, 2026-July 23, 2028. Save the date to meet the artist and curator on Member Preview Day – Saturday, September 19, 2026!

Also, this fall's *Swirl* includes curator, Kathleen Ogilvie Greene, sharing more insights on *BENN*!

Shantell Martin: Past, Present, Future is made possible by generous exhibition support from Katie Adams and Tony Schaeffer, Lauren and Scott Eder, and Julie and Michael Nachamkin. Additional support is provided by the Brooke Barrie Art Fund and Marjorie Ogilvie. Support is provided in part by The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division of the NJ Department of State, and a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Atlantic Foundation.

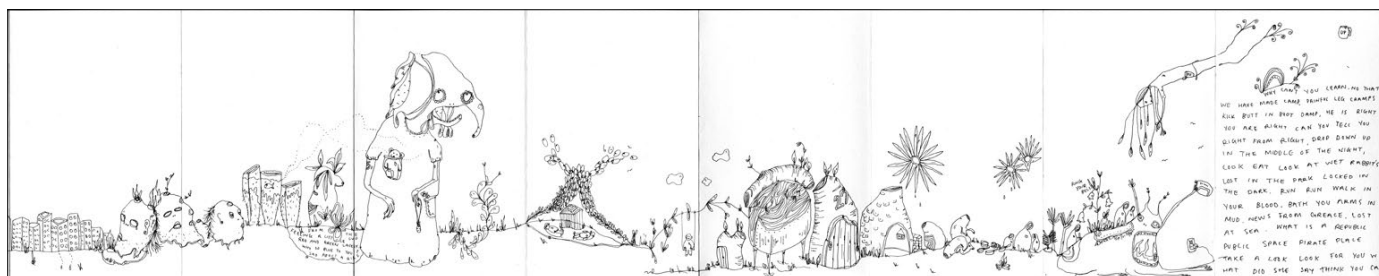
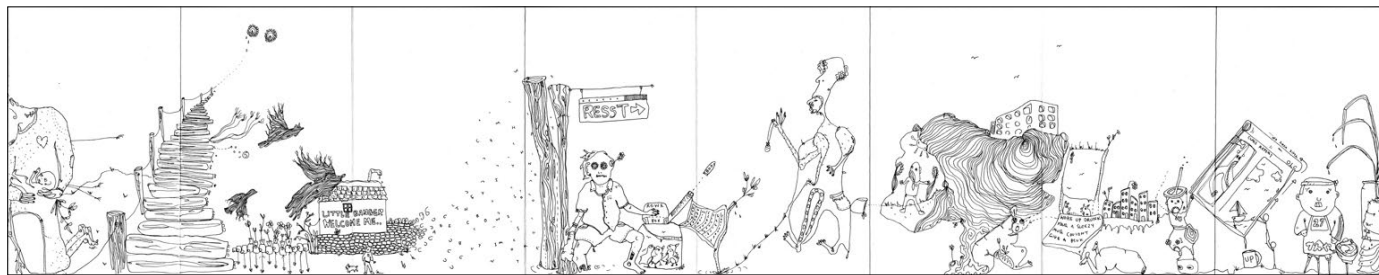
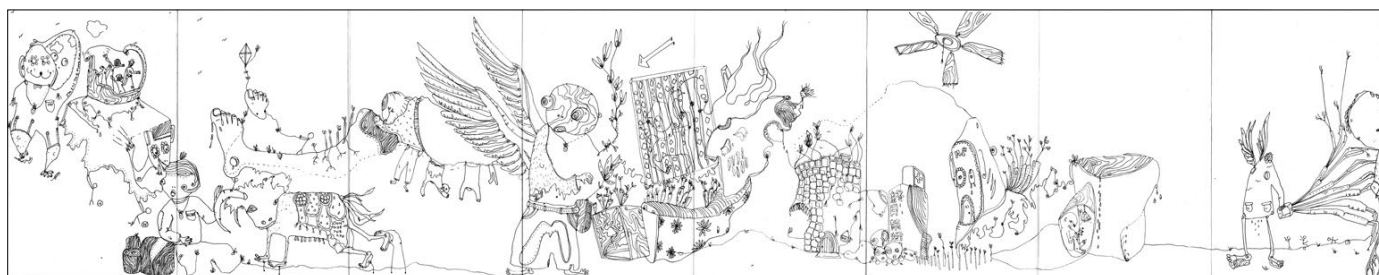


Made possible by funds from the
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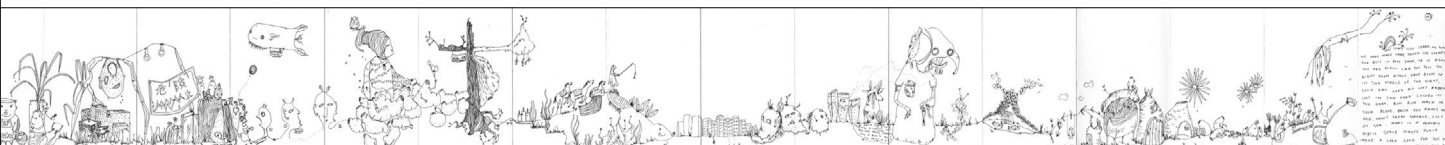


Shantell Martin, *In the Mood For Love*, from the KOOB series, 2004-2009

Shantell Martin: Someday We Can, Buffalo AKG Museum, 2017, photo: Connie Tsang



Shantell Martin, detailed views of *In the Mood For Love*, from the KOOB series, 2004-2009



Shantell Martin, digital rendering of *BENN*, 2026, Courtesy of the Artist; Shantell Martin, *In the Mood For Love*, from the KOOB Series, 2004-2009, Courtesy of the Artist.

Opening the Vault:

A LOOK INSIDE THE GFS COLLECTION

On view through December 31, 2026
Domestic Arts Building



Steve Tobin, *Homage a Femme*, 1994, glass, bronze, 27 x 15 x 9 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of The Seward Johnson Atelier; Joe Mooney, *Icarus Falling and Icarus Rising*, 1992, Cor-ten, 58 1/2 x 41 x 28 1/2 and 54 3/8 x 38 x 26 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of Andrea Baldeck and Bill Holli; Layo Bright, *9:29 May 25, 2020. George Floyd Murder #147*, 2025, glass, oak, sand, 28 x 13 1/2 x 13 1/2 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Purchase, with Funds Provided in Part by Nigel Brown and Rishi Puri and Timothy Bailey; Raymond Kaskey, *Justice*, 1996, cast bronze, 35 x 24 x 24 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of Raymond Kaskey; Christopher Cairns, *Black Madonna*, 1984, cast bronze, 92 x 19 x 16 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of The Seward Johnson Atelier, Original Gift of Joan Tobias In Memory of Isaac Witkin; Andrew Rogers, *Leading*, 1997, bronze, 80 x 32 x 40 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of The Seward Johnson Atelier © Artist or Artist's Estate; Frederick Morante, *Relative*, 2003, bronze, steel, 144 x 144 x 18 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of The Seward Johnson Atelier © Artist or Artist's Estate, photo: David Michael Howarth Photography



What art do you feel connected to?
¿Con qué tipo de arte te sientes identificado?

Learn more about the **exhibition, artwork, and curators.**
Hear from Staff Curators at upcoming **Art Encounters pop-up talks** featuring the exhibition!

Opening the Vault: A Look Inside the GFS Collection is supported in part by The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division of the NJ Department of State, and a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Atlantic Foundation.



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





Explore Grounds For Sculpture's Full Artwork Collection with *eMuseumPlus*

Faith McClellan | Director of Collections & Exhibitions

When GFS opened in 1992, the idea of building a collection of more than 500 works would likely have seemed like an unfathomable goal to the founding team. Fast forward to 2009, when the size and scope of the activities surrounding the collection made it clear that the systems in place to support the collection were not keeping pace. That year saw the implementation of the first digital collection database as well as the drafting of GFS's first Collection Management Policy. Those improvements began a process of more thoroughly documenting the history connected to every work in the collection, for example, details around its acquisition, creation, movement, and conservation.

Explore our online collection

Grounds For Sculpture combines art and beckoning spaces to welcome, surprise, and engage all visitors in the artist's act of invention.

With a focus on contemporary sculpture, the art collection is filled with a range of styles and materials, created by regional, national, and international artists. Visitors to the sculpture park are invited to experience many of the outdoor works in the collection by respectful touching and interaction, an experience that is meant to encourage opportunities to respond to art using the senses, finding meaning based upon one's own perception. In this spirit of self-guided discovery, we invite you to explore the collection.

Highlights



Recent acquisitions



Fantastic Beasts



Fabricated at the
Johnson Atelier

[View all](#)

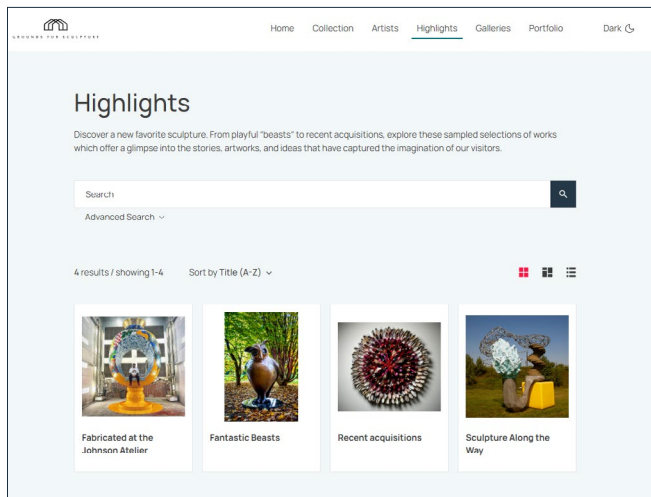
Screenshot of *eMuseumPlus* home page

Seward Johnson, *Daydream*, 2014, aluminum, 432 x 732 x 240 inches, Collection of The Seward Johnson Atelier, © 2014, The Seward Johnson Atelier, Inc. photo: Roshni Khatri; Aerial view of GFS, photo: David W. Steele

That first database helped the curatorial team establish more systematic processes for the documentation of the collection, which among other things, has been essential to track the changes to the collection over time. However, in 2025 it was time once again to consider implementing some new tools to help guide this work. Through the support provided by the Bloomberg Digital Accelerator Program, GFS has upgraded the collections database to a new system — *MuseumPlus*. This new database provides the curatorial team with a cloud-based platform for documenting the collection, which allows for easy access to create new records while in the field as well as abundant digital storage space to house the documentation. From December 2025– April 2026, the existing digital collection files were mapped to the new system.

Previously the artwork viewable on the website provided a limited view of the collection, primarily focused on works on view and all information remained static, requiring manual changes to every page anytime the curatorial team updated the collection records. Beginning this summer, for the first time *the full collection* will now be available online through a portal connected directly to the database: groundsfor sculpture.zetcom.net/en/. The curatorial team will continue updating the database records as new information becomes available. With the new system, anytime new work is added to the collection, or if new information about the work is added, the online portal will automatically reflect the updates.

Visitors to the new collection site can search the online catalogue or choose to view selected “Highlights” or “Galleries” where specific works will be periodically featured. Currently the “Galleries” feature is displaying works that are included in the current exhibition *Opening the Vault: A Look Inside the GFS Collection*. An additional “Portfolio” feature is available which allows users to save a selection of works in their personal portfolio to view later. To use this feature, while on an object record, look for the small star shaped icon at the top right, just below the toolbar and click on it. Then head to the “Portfolio” tab and you will see your selected works.



Screenshot of eMuseumPlus highlights page

This project was developed with the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies' Digital Accelerator for Arts and Culture.

**Bloomberg
Philanthropies**



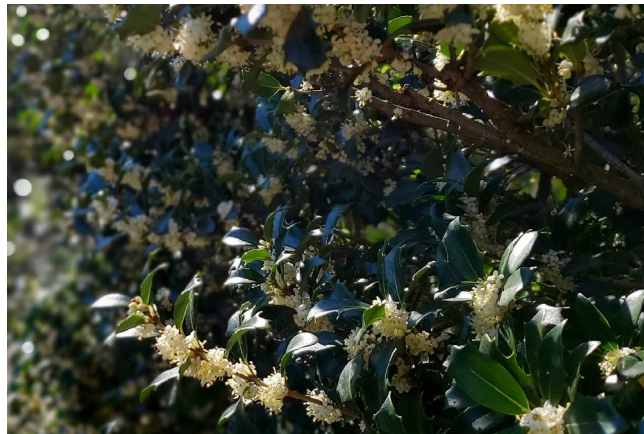
Bloom Watch

Cat Swiderski | Manager of Horticulture



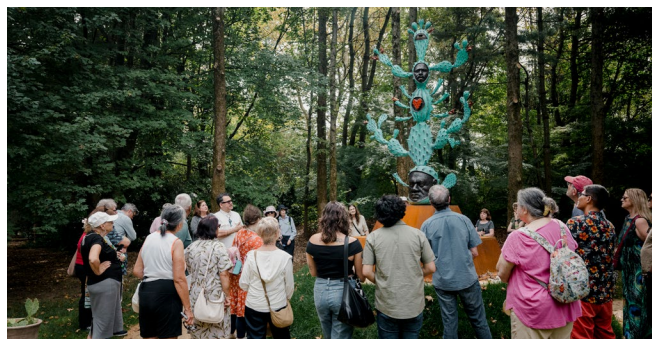
Early Fall (September/October)

Hydrangea quercifolia, commonly known as oakleaf hydrangea, is a standout shrub for fall color. Native to the southeastern United States, oakleaf hydrangea is named for its distinctive foliage, which resembles the leaves of oak trees. During the summer months, these shrubs produce elegant panicles of white flowers that gradually transition to shades of pink as fall approaches. By autumn, the foliage transitions from green to stunning shades of orange, red, and purple. You'll find oakleaf hydrangeas throughout the grounds, including near the entrance to Rat's, in the Rose Arbor, in the *Doubles* (by George Sugarman) garden bed, and behind the Water Garden.



Late Fall (November/December)

Osmanthus heterophyllus 'Gulf tide,' commonly known as false holly, is a dense evergreen shrub commonly used as a hedging plant and can be found throughout the grounds. While dutifully serving its purpose as a hedge or screen, *Osmanthus* also gives us the gift of incredible fragrance in late fall. As the weather begins to turn chilly, the dainty white flowers open along the stems. Though they are tiny, these blooms are powerfully fragrant and can perfume a surprisingly large area. Be sure to walk across the Van Gogh Pond bridge towards the Member Lounge while the *Osmanthus* hedges are in bloom to take in this magnificent aroma.



Affinity Groups at GFS – the Garden Circle and Collectors Circle

We invite you to deepen your connection to GFS while making a meaningful difference in the art and landscapes you love. As exclusive add-ons to your GFS Membership, these groups are designed for patrons who want more focused engagement in the areas that inspire them most. Affinity Groups offer insider access, expert-led programs, and intimate opportunities that extend well beyond general membership, connecting you with a community that shares your passion and allowing you to directly support the work that defines our mission.



Garden Circle: Your annual dues support the ongoing care and growth of our beautiful "Living Collection", while allowing you to join us for meaningful social and educational experiences that not only engage our community, but make a difference at GFS.

Collectors Circle: Deepen your passion for contemporary art and sculpture through intimate curatorial access, private collection tours, and curated travel while directly supporting exhibitions, commissioning, and conservation at GFS.

Have questions about how you can make an impact?

Contact: Marissa Reibstein, Chief Development Officer,
at mreibstein@groundsforsculpture.org or 609.249.0233.



On Poppied Hill Garden Renovation Progress

Cat Swiderski | Manager of Horticulture

The renovation of the *On Poppied Hill* (by Seward Johnson) garden has been ongoing since 2021, but significant progress began in early 2025 with the complete removal of the remaining large ornamental grasses (*Miscanthus sinensis*, commonly known as silvergrass) that once blanketed the hill and frequently obscured the view of the sculpture. Over several winters, the Horticulture team, staff from other departments, volunteers, and workshop participants worked together to dig out these grasses and introduce new perennial plantings. As the project evolved, it became clear that a full replanting of the hilltop garden would be the most effective long-term solution.

This collaborative effort also helped the Horticulture team plant more than 1,000 plant plugs selected for their height, color, form, flower type, and cultural requirements. Grasses such as *Deschampsia caespitosa* and grass-like sedges such as *Carex pennsylvanica* were chosen for their soft, meadow-like texture and ability to remain within the desired height range. Flowering perennials including lavender, salvia, betony, liatris, heuchera, zizia, and gaura were also planted throughout the garden. The project also included improvements to the fence at the base of the hill and the addition of a spirea hedge to help discourage visitors from climbing the slope.

Since the 2025 planting, the Horticulture team has continued to manage weeds and monitor any aggressive regrowth from unwanted plants. It has been exciting to see how much growth occurred this season and an additional 400 plugs have been added in 2026 to further fill in the renovated garden space. As the new planting matures, we look forward to watching the reimagined *On Poppied Hill* garden continue to grow and evolve in conversation with the sculpture and surrounding landscape.



Horticulture staff and volunteers planting 1,000 plant plugs (early 2025)



Artists in Action: A Hidden World of Creativity

Tiffany Allen | Director of Education & Engagement

Behind every remarkable work of art is a story waiting to be discovered, and at Grounds For Sculpture, many of those stories begin long before a sculpture is placed in the landscape. Visitors often spend their day wandering the sculpture park's winding paths, encountering monumental sculptures nestled among gardens, walkways, and ponds. What many don't realize is that hidden just beyond those familiar routes is another essential part of the Grounds For Sculpture experience—a thriving group of working artists whose creativity continues to flow into our community and *throughout* the grounds.

From its earliest days, GFS was never intended to be simply a place to display finished works of art. It was envisioned as a place where artists could experiment, collaborate, solve creative challenges, and push the boundaries of their practice. That spirit of exploration remains woven into the fabric of GFS decades later through a vibrant community of artists.

Inside the historic Motor Exhibits Building (MEB), a 40,000-square-foot structure dating back to the 1920s when the property served as the New Jersey State Fairgrounds, are artist studios that are home to an extraordinary range of creative voices. Behind each studio door are painters, sculptors, ceramic artists, fabricators, and mixed-media creators whose practices are as varied as the artwork found throughout the sculpture park.



Margareta Warlick's studio (pictured at top); Ani Vassileva's studio (pictured above and to the right)

All photos: David Michael Howarth Photography

Some have been part of the Grounds For Sculpture community for decades, like Takeo Shimizu, Master Metal Worker who remembers the early days when the Johnson Atelier was in West Windsor, and others have recently joined the collective, like Katie Truk, an artist known for her innovated use of pantyhose. Together they represent rich artistic knowledge, innovation, and craftsmanship, each contributing to the evolving story of GFS while pursuing their own unique creative vision. Their studios are living workspaces – filled with sketches, maquettes, tools, unfinished sculptures, and moments of experimentation – that reveal the creative process often hidden from public view.

For those curious about what happens behind the walls of the Motor Exhibits Building, the MEB Open Studio Day offers a rare invitation into this hidden world. During this special event, the artists open their doors and welcome visitors into their personal creative spaces. Guests can explore studios that are typically closed to the public, view works in progress, and witness the fascinating intersection of creativity and craftsmanship. Rather than simply observing finished artwork, visitors become part of a conversation about creativity itself.

Meeting the artists adds an entirely new dimension to the experience and visitors can ask questions about process, learn how different materials behave, hear stories from decades spent creating at GFS, and gain a deeper appreciation

for the dedication behind every finished piece. Whether speaking with an artist who helped shape the park in its earliest years, or someone new to the community, each interaction reveals another layer of the institution's rich artistic legacy.

Open Studio Day also celebrates something that has always distinguished GFS: the belief that artists are central to the institution's identity. For longtime supporters, Open Studio Day offers the chance to reconnect with artists whose work has become part of the GFS story. For first-time visitors, it reveals a side of the organization that many never knew existed. And for aspiring artists, students, and anyone inspired by the creative process, it serves as a reminder that every masterpiece begins with experimentation, persistence, and the courage to keep creating.

The next **Motor Exhibits Building Open Studio Day** will take place on **Saturday, October 24, 2026, from 10AM – 4PM**. Visitors are invited to step beyond the garden paths, meet the artists who call GFS home, and experience the creative spirit that has defined the campus for decades. It's a rare opportunity to see not only where art is made, but where the next chapter of GFS's story is already taking shape. [Learn more about the studio artists and the Artist Studio Program.](#)







Magdalena Abakanowicz, *Space of Stone*, 2002, Barre grey granite, Pennsylvania black granite, 152 inches x 181 feet x 69 feet, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of The Seward Johnson Atelier © Artist's Estate, photo: David Michael Howarth Photography



Larry Rose, *Father and Son*



Kitty Pinder, *Blowing In the Wind*



Dale Pilling

Artwork by Volunteers & Docents

As the gardens shift into the warm shades of autumn, we wanted to share these original works created by our dedicated volunteers and docents.

Larry Rose

Father and Son
Welded steel

This piece was the result of an endeavor to learn welding through the process of artmaking. It was a freeform approach where the final composition was not pre-planned but rather created through the process of adding and removing metal shapes.

Kitty Pinder

Blowing In the Wind
24" x 24" acrylic painting

Simply walking through the grounds inspires me to paint. As an active volunteer with the Arc Mercer program and educational workshops, I gain inspiration from my work with GFS's wonderful visitors and the beauty of the environment.

Interested in volunteering at GFS? Volunteers play a vital role in all facets of our operation and create a warm and friendly atmosphere for our visitors. Grounds For Sculpture offers a range of volunteer opportunities for people with a variety of interests, schedules, and skills. [LEARN MORE](#)

Dale Pilling

Untitled
Fused glass

I made the piece on the left at a glass studio about 10 years ago. I saw and loved the periwinkle-colored glass and decided to make a long mosaic piece that was sectional. The piece on the right is more recent and was inspired by a book of African patterns. There was a pattern I particularly liked, and I used it as my springboard and interpreted it in my own way.

Esther Whelan

Autumn Reflections
Photograph

I took this photo on October 29, 2025. I loved the way the autumn colors from the building and the koi reflected in the water.

Andrea Pitluk

After Autin Wright's Carmelita
Oil painting

Autin Wright's *Carmelita* is always part of my welcome into Grounds For Sculpture. The upright shape and uneven texture of the sculpture interacts with the light, the water, and the lotus flowers!



Dale Pilling



Esther Whelan, *Autumn Reflections*



Andrea Pitluk, *After Autin Wright's Carmelita*

Tania Pierce

"The desert in Me 10/29/25"

This poem was inspired by

Salvador Jiménez-Flores' installation at GFS.

The desert in me
is not what I see.
Nor what I can be.

I strive. I thrive
in the vast abyss
that surrounds me.
I seek. I wonder.
of what lies beyond me ...

The relentless sun's rays
rage through me.
The cold nights engulf me.
The soulless terrain chills me.

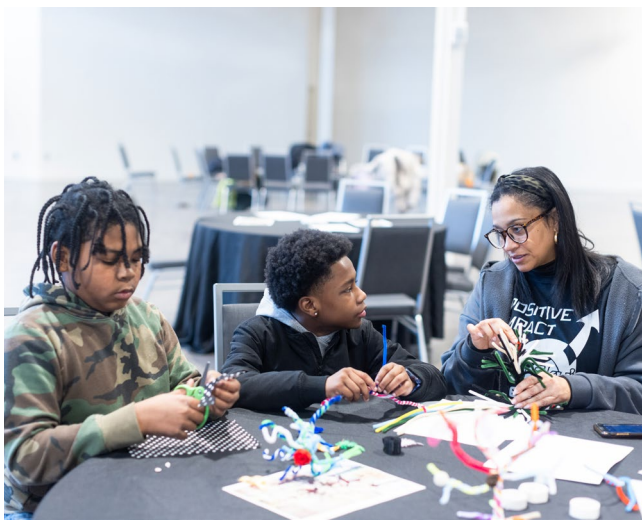
Yet I wonder – what can I be?
What can I evoke --
in a human world
bereft of feeling for one another?

What can I do to displace this indifference?
I beckon intrepids to come into my path –
to feast upon adaptive life that goes on and on
with safe harbor and protective embrace.

I can also *shield and protect humanity.*

I can summon the winds
to submerge life's foe in the dust--
disarming its tenor and implements.

I wish to be part of life's community.



FUNDING FOR SCHOOL VISITS

We are excited to announce funding from the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust toward educational access opportunities for Trenton schools.

GFS will provide field trips to students from Title 1 schools within the Trenton School District. The funding will include group admission for the participating Title I classes and their chaperones to visit and explore the indoor exhibits and sculptures on view in the gardens of GFS. As a part of their visit, teachers will be provided with activities from the GFS Educational Tool Box related to the art that will connect and engage students during their visit.

Funding for this program means that participating schools would be able to attend at no cost to them, further expanding access and allowing GFS to maintain and grow relationships with schools in our community.

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

Corporate and foundation funders and Business Members recently brought groups to volunteer at GFS. A group from [Bohren's Fine Art Transportation](#) and three from [Horizon NJ Health](#) joined us for the first time this summer, along with [NRG Energy, Inc.](#), who visit annually.

The groups worked hard with our Curatorial department in our storage areas, our Volunteer team with supply preparation for an upcoming program, and our Horticulture staff in our ponds and throughout the grounds removing bamboo and other large scale clean up. We are truly appreciative of the work that is accomplished by these hard-working groups.

To learn more about how to join the Business Member program and volunteer with us, contact Karen Hollywood at khollywood@groundsforsculpture.org or 609.249.0248.



Horizon NJ Health



NRG Energy, Inc.



Bohren's Fine Art Transportation

Elizabeth Strong-Cuevas, *Arch II*, 1993, aluminum, 144 x 132 x 60 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of the Artist; Walter Dusenbery, *Rocchetta*, 1983, Turkish gray travertine, 95 1/2 x 86 x 34 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of The Seward Johnson Atelier; Barton Rubenstein, *Harmonize*, stainless steel, 16 x 3 x 3 feet, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of the Artist, photo: Roshni Khatri; Funding for School Visits photo: Roshni Khatri

ROCKIN' ARTWORKS

Sculptures made of stone

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden down and across.

Z	E	R	F	P	W	Z	P	G	H	A	T
E	P	K	E	N	K	I	R	D	T	Z	S
S	E	O	L	I	T	H	E	U	R	R	P
F	O	F	L	U	X	U	S	M	I	X	A
I	W	T	Z	J	X	I	T	X	A	V	R
K	O	R	D	E	L	L	I	T	D	S	T
D	U	U	U	Y	Y	A	E	M	H	P	E
M	M	E	M	O	R	Y	R	Y	G	L	N
R	Y	D	H	G	R	U	P	O	D	K	U
T	K	C	T	U	F	O	R	T	H	Q	V
R	O	C	C	H	E	T	T	A	H	J	P
H	D	O	Y	H	A	Y	S	T	A	C	K

FORTH

HAYSTACK

KORDELL

MEMORY

ENKI

TRIAD

FLUXUS

GHAT

ROCCHETTA

SPARTEN

EOLITH

GRUPO



WHAT GFS STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS ARE READING:

Brave the Wild River: The Untold Story of Two Women Who Mapped the Botany of the Grand Canyon by Melissa Sevigny

Death of the Author by Nnedi Okorafor

Edmonia: A Novel of a Boundary-Breaking American Sculptress by Brianne Baker

Ninth Street Women: Lee Krasner, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, Joan Mitchell, and

Helen Frankenthaler: Five Painters and the Movement That Changed Modern Art by Mary Gabriel

Say Hello by Carly Findlay