

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Art on Campus

UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS AFFILIATE

Marston Hall

title

The Fifth Muse

artist

Norie Sato



Location

Marston Hall, east entry

Materials

Stainless steel and mixed media: Aluminum, glass, stainless steel, acrylic, ABS Plastic, steel, and other materials.

Date

2016

About the Work of Art

The Fifth Muse

Using Iowa State's Engineering labs, facilities and people for fabrication, this artwork was made to express the diversity and range of study and activities at the College of Engineering. Referring to the four Marston Muses on the outside of this building, this artwork looks at the present and into the future of Engineering as well as the past, and expresses for the current time what the original muses expressed about engineering for its time. Though processes and stories are told by the objects and how they are hung, viewers are also encouraged to develop their own stories and connections between objects.

**University Museums - Art on Campus Program
Iowa State University, Ames, IA**

The Fifth Muse was produced in several of the laboratories and manufacturing facilities located at Iowa State University with input from ISU's students, staff and faculty including:

Boyd Labs, Sandy Bremer, Josh DeLarm
ABE Student Innovation Center Waterjet Facility: Rob Hartmann
Rapid Manufacturing and Prototyping Laboratory: Matthew Frank
Frank Peters
Aerospace M:2:I., Matthew Nelson, Christine Nelson
Wind Simulation and Testing Laboratory: Andrew Jordan
CIRAS: Chris Hill
Dept. of Chemistry Glassblower: Trond Forre
College of Design Labs: Jennifer Nieland
Tom Bos, MA, Industrial Design, ISU 2017
Frederick Koke, Masters Degree, College of Engineering ISU, 2016
Christian Wehr
Joel Lanus

The University of Northern Iowa's Public Art Incubator, directed by Tom Stancliffe with fabricator Dan Perry and UNI student assistants, fabricated the structure of the sculpture, assembled and aided with the installation.

Ralph Berry, John Pohlman and many others assisted with various aspects of the project.

Artists Statement

At the main building for the College of Engineering, hanging objects evoke the intricacies, complexities and diversity of engineering disciplines at the College. Referring to the traditional sculptures of four muses, on the exterior of the historic building, this artwork looks to the present and future. An important aspect of the artwork was to fabricate or acquire most of the objects in Iowa and especially through the various manufacturing and technical labs at the University and the College of Engineering, making an installation that is mostly made in Iowa and partially made by engineers at the labs within the College of Engineering. This artwork is anchored by the basic wheel, an early engineering invention, and the turbine, a more recent invention connected by an infinity symbol as its main structure from which over 100 objects hang. Each object tells a story, yet relationships between the various objects also tell other open-ended narratives that become personal as well as universal. The Marston Water Tower hangs rather like a plumb bob, its legs swirling into the hanging objects as if it were becoming a cyclone, further adding to the story.



About the Artist

Norie Sato was born in Sendai, Japan in 1949 and moved to the United States with her family when she was 4. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a BA in Printmaking in 1971. She moved to Seattle in 1972 and received her MA in Printmaking and Video from the University of Washington in 1974. Since that time she has lived and worked in Seattle and has been involved with public art. Her artwork for public contexts is derived from site and context-driven ideas. She strives to add meaning and human touch to the built environment and considers edges, transitions, and connections as important as the center. She works in sculpture and 2-dimensional work, and in various media including glass, metal, terrazzo floors, integrated design work, landscape, video and light.

Sato was awarded National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships in 1979 and 1981. She received the 1983 Betty Bowen award, the 1998 The National Terrazzo and Mosaic Association Honor Award, the 2013 Twining Humber Award from Washington State Artist Trust, the 2014 Public Art Network Leadership Award from Americans for the Arts, and the 2014 Washington State Governor's Arts and Heritage Individual Artist Award. She is a former member of the Americans for the Arts Public Art Network Council and a former commissioner of the Seattle Design Commission. Sato's other public works of art on the Iowa State campus are located in the Palmer Human Development and Family Studies Building and Hach Hall, and are titled *One, Now, All* and *e+l+e+m+e+n+t+a+l*, respectively. More information: www.noriesato.com

About the Art on Campus Collection

Iowa State University is home to one of the largest campus public art collections in the United States. Over 2,000 works of public art, including many by significant regional, national and international artists, are located across campus in buildings, courtyards, open spaces and offices. In 1982, the University Museums created the Art on Campus Collection and Program that codifies acquisition, education and care and conservation of the campus public art collection.

The foundation of the contemporary Art on Campus Collection and Program began during the Depression in the 1930s, when Iowa State's President Hughes envisioned that, "The arts would enrich and provide substantial intellectual exploration into our college curricula." In 1978, Iowa passed the Iowa Art in State Buildings legislation, which requires .5 percent of new construction or remodeling funds to be used to acquire public art. Since 1978, Iowa State has completed Art in State Building projects, commissioned or acquired public works of art, and has involved faculty, students and staff in the commissioning and acquisition process.

Marston Hall

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Art on Campus accession number U2016.506

Additional information on public art, other Art on Campus information sheets, and Art on Campus maps are available at the Christian Petersen Art Museum, 1017 Morrill Hall, (515) 294-9500, or visit us at www.museums.iastate.edu

This information sheet is intended to be used in addition to viewing the Art on Campus Collection. At no time should this sheet be used as a substitute for experiencing the art in person.