

Hand Heart 2021

Jason Pickleman, (b. 1965, d. 2024)

Fiberglass

Gift from the artist and his wife, Leslie Bodenstein and made possible through a generous gift from Susan Manilow

Collection of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park
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Hand Heart directly addresses the continuity that exists across the history of visual form making—from cave drawings to the pictograms of contemporary international wayfinding signage—to form a symbol of compassionate empathy that supersedes language to become universally communicative across lines of age, race, gender, and culture.

Handprints are as old as human civilization. They are found deep inside some of the earliest cave dwellings, some dating to 64,000 years ago. In a similar gesture, children from all over the world have placed their hands into paint or mud and made impressions of their palms and outstretched fingers. Likewise, the inset red heart within this sculpture is a universal symbol of life and love, health, and happiness, and can be found in

cultures all over the world. In fact, it's one of the first symbols we learn as children. Hand Heart harkens to these various situations.

Hand Heart utilizes the graphic conventions of international way finding, like those seen in airports, to express concerns of love, connectedness, and empathy. The sculpture seeks to engage its public on both a popular as well as poetic level, utilizing visual forms that are open to both children and seasoned anthropologists. And art critics, too.

Bridging the gap between fine and commercial art, Jason Pickleman (b. 1965, d. 2024) created a body of work both conceptual and popular, applying media as varied as neon, offset printing, silkscreen, collage, photography, and commercially available ready-mades. Pickleman was included in the 2007 exhibition Young Chicago at the Art Institute of Chicago, and his work has subsequently been placed into the museum's permanent collection.