

Sound of Woods 2024

Neil Goodman (American b. 1953)

Bronze

Commissioned by theNate / GSU Foundation
made possible by lead donors:

- Barbara Sturges – in loving memory of her husband, Al P. Sturges, December 7, 1934 ~ February 18, 2022 age 87, Founding Board Member, Volunteer Docent, and Ambassador for theNate
- Gary Metzner and Scott Johnson
- Cairry and Tom Brown
- Jeanne Rogers and Perry Sainati
- Susan Sandler and David Goodman, the artist's brother – in loving memory of their parents, Phil and Judy Goodman

2024.01

Born in Hammond Indiana in 1953, Neil Goodman received his BA (1976) at Indiana University. Bloomington and his MFA at the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia in 1979. Shortly thereafter, Goodman was offered a faculty position at Indiana University Northwest where he became one of the founding members of the Fine Arts department. Goodman retired from teaching in 2017 as Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts.

For nearly forty years, Goodman's work was strongly influenced by the postindustrial landscape of the south side of Chicago and Gary Indiana, but when the artist moved to the central coast of California, a landscape of rolling arabesque hills, beach towns, and the geometry of vineyards found their way into his practice. Hence his work incorporates both past and present, as locale and environment have always been strongly incorporated into Goodman's sculptures.

"Sound of the Woods" responds to the natural setting at theNate through the undulating lines, that echo back to themselves in the sculpture, inviting us to trace our path of discovery within and beyond ourselves, to our inner world and our outer surroundings. The open forms hint at the way tree branches divide the summer sky, or cast shadows across the snowy ground, the positive and negative shapes sharing equal importance in supporting our perceptions. Because of its reference to auditory sensation, "Sound of the Woods" joins Michael Dunbar's "Oscar's Inclination", and Mark di Suvero's "Yes! For Lady Day", which refer to the music of Oscar Peterson, and Billy Holiday respectively, in activating the question: how does sculpture sound?