

Stargazing with Contrails 2021

Terrence Karpowicz (American b.1948)

Painted steel

Purchased by theNate / GSU Foundation made possible by Paul and Linda Uzureau.

Collection of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

2021.01

Terrence Karpowicz lives and works in Chicago, creating sculpture in a variety of media. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, he received degrees from Albion College in Albion, Michigan and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign before being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study with Jim Davies, British master millwright. The experience with Davies provided definition in Karpowicz' search for a personal aesthetic.

Stargazing with Contrails completes our founder's vision to have a Karpowicz outside, in the center of the collection. **Art Ark**, 1981, which is currently sited in the D Main Entrance of GSU, was originally sited outdoors, requiring it to be re-fabricated and moved indoors in 2006. **Stargazing with Contrails** makes direct reference to other works in the collection as well as the prairie setting, through color, materials, and design. The artist is celebrating the open sky and encouraging us to look up, literally and figuratively. This piece was added to the collection in 2021 through a gift by Paul and Linda Uzureau, during the dark days of the pandemic, providing hope, forward-looking vision, and awe during uncertain times. Karpowicz, inspired by Mark di Suvero professionally and personally, chose to include a rolled I-beam to reference di Suvero's **Yes! For Lady Day**, which stands on a hill nearby and utilizes I-beams as a common industrial material transformed into art.

Painted blue, white, and yellow - which references John Henry's **Illinois Landscape No. 5** to the east and **Falling Meteor** to the west. - **Stargazing with Contrails** brings these sculptures into conversation across the park. The night-sky-blue circle, punctured with patterns based on Leo and Sagittarius constellations, makes viewing the stars possible in the light of day, and casts dazzling patterns onto the other surfaces of the sculpture. The crossed white elements echo the contrails that so often appear in the sky above the GSU campus; the yellow element points us to the North Star.