

Untitled (Firenze) c.1960

Abbott Pattison (American, 1916-1999)

Gift from Mr. Sean Susanin

Collection of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

Born in Chicago, Pattison attended Yale University, graduating with both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Fine Art degrees. Pattison began his professional career as a creator and teacher of art, which was interrupted in 1942, when he joined the Navy. He resumed his career after World War II and lived in Winnetka, Illinois, just outside of Chicago, for 35 years until 1993 when he moved to Maine. Pattison taught at the Art Institute of Chicago, the North Shore League, and the Skowhegan School of Art in Maine.

“...And then all of a sudden the whole panoply of centuries of art spread before our eyes in books and museums and we have to be aware of all of these forms of expression. Yes, I have been eclectic in my own work. We artists can’t help but admire so much the artworks of the past and incorporate them into our own work.” Abbott Pattison, March 1998.

Classical Greek and Etruscan forms inspired reinterpretations completed as abstract bronzes, welded braised figures, and marble carvings. Pattison regarded all sculptors, living during his lifetime or throughout history, as his kin. Transitioning from classical to abstract and back again reflects his work’s complex relationship with this kinship.

This untitled abstracted figural sculpture was created during one of the artist’s many residencies in Florence at the Marinelli foundry with whom he had a long relationship. This work’s totemic form was used only for one other monumental bronze completed by the artist, the “Chicago Totem”.

“Untitled” (Firenze) was created in 1960 making it the earliest piece in the collection, and as such it serves as an example (along with “Lanleff Demeure, No. 4”, 1961 by Henri Etienne-Martin) of the figurative abstraction of that period in Art History that eventually gave way to the non-objective art that most works in the collection at theNate represent.