Welcome to the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park
An extension of the Des Moines Art Center

Through the generosity of John and Mary Pappajohn and numerous donors, the park opened in 2009 and features artworks by local and international artists. The 4.4-acre park, located within a major crossroads of the urban grid, creates a pedestrian-friendly setting, coupled with the skilled landscape design and caliber of the art, makes it one of the finest sculpture parks in the United States.

Preservation
Help to maintain sculptures for future generations by not touching, climbing or writing on the sculptures, with the exception of Scott Burton. Stealing or defacing any of the sculpture property subjects you to arrest. Touching or climbing the sculptures, with the exception of Scott Burton’s Untitled (Three Dancing Figures, version C) is a collaborative effort of the Pappajohns, with the vision of the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park in collaboration with the City of Des Moines and Pappajohn Family Foundation, and numerous corporate and private funders.

Tour
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Make the most of your visit! On your own or with your family

LOOK at the sculptures from different angles and distances. Draw a sketch. Go to the top of a hill and find a new perspective.

NOTICE a landscape element—sky, weather—different elements within the park. The sculptures by Jaume Plensa, Olafur Eliasson, Mark di Suvero offer viewing the landscape

PLAY shadows and light if your companion can guess which sculpture you are looking at

WRITE your own short label

SNAP photos from different vantage points around the park. Place or details within the sculptures. Create a narrative sequence of your labels and photos to avoid words dictating required.

DRAW with a sketchbook

LISTEN to music inspired by the sculptures. The sculptures are a collaborative effort of the Pappajohns, with the vision of the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park in collaboration with the City of Des Moines and Pappajohn Family Foundation, and numerous corporate and private funders.

Visit the Des Moines Art Center

There are many challenges in maintaining an outdoor sculpture gallery. The acidity of bird droppings and the corrosiveness of rain can damage the finish of works of art in the park. Even a scrape of a watch or lotion can leave a permanent mark.

Thank you for helping the Art Center protect the artwork in the park.

The Pappajohn Sculpture Park (2009) joins the Richard M. and Helen Charlene Garwin Meier building of the Des Moines Art Center to house the finest sculptures of our time. The Pappajohn Sculpture Park is a collaborative effort of the Pappajohns, with the vision of the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park in collaboration with the City of Des Moines and Pappajohn Family Foundation, and numerous corporate and private funders.

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that work, Caro founded the Triangle Workshop, a place he described as "an attempt to put together the sordidness and the space and the day-to-day life of a factory and a big city." Caro was known for his large-scale, abstract works that were often constructed from industrial materials like steel and wood.

Ugo Rondinone (Swiss, born 1963)

In his work, Ugo Rondinone explores the relationship between art and life, often using his experiences as a source of inspiration. His pieces, such as "Cast aluminum, white enamel," are meant to convey the passage of time and the idea of a journey. Rondinone's art is characterized by its bold, colorful, and dynamic qualities, which are often inspired by his travels and personal experiences.

MOONRISE

The title of this work, "MOONRISE," is a reference to the moon and is named after a poem by John Keats. The piece is a sculpture that can be seen as a symbol of the passage of time, and it is meant to evoke a sense of nostalgia and reflection.

Ellsworth Kelly initially emerged as a leader of the Color Field movement in the mid-1950s, and his work has been influential in the development of contemporary art. Kelly's "Seating for Eight" is a piece that is well considered in terms of its environment and its relationship to the urban context of the park. Each piece has a unique personality and scale, and the horses are meant to convey the sense of a regular ritual of bathing, but the intimate, everyday nature of the subject is preserved.

Adamo (American, born 1912)

"Adam" is a work that is meant to convey the sense of a regular ritual of bathing, but the intimate, everyday nature of the subject is preserved. The piece is a sculpture that can be seen as a symbol of the passage of time, and it is meant to evoke a sense of nostalgia and reflection.

Gary Hume (British, born 1962)

In his work, Hume explores the relationship between art and life, often using his experiences as a source of inspiration. His pieces, such as "Bronze / 94 7/8 × 92 1/2 × 92 1/2 inches," are meant to convey the passage of time and the idea of a journey. Hume's art is characterized by its bold, colorful, and dynamic qualities, which are often inspired by his travels and personal experiences.

Along with his work with bronze, Hume is known for his series of "Fairy Tale," which are sculptures that are meant to convey a sense of whimsy and playfulness. The pieces are often made of traditional materials, such as bronze, and are meant to evoke a sense of nostalgia and reflection.

Tony Smith (American, 1912–1980)

Smith was a sculptor who is known for his large-scale, abstract works that were often constructed from industrial materials like steel and wood. His "Marriage" is a piece that is meant to convey the sense of a regular ritual of bathing, but the intimate, everyday nature of the subject is preserved. The piece is a sculpture that can be seen as a symbol of the passage of time, and it is meant to evoke a sense of nostalgia and reflection.

"The Divine Hare" is another work that is meant to convey the sense of a regular ritual of bathing, but the intimate, everyday nature of the subject is preserved. The piece is a sculpture that can be seen as a symbol of the passage of time, and it is meant to evoke a sense of nostalgia and reflection.

Hannah Wilke (American, born 1940)

Wilke was a sculptor and performance artist who is known for her work with bronze, which she used to create a number of large-scale sculptures. "Reclining Figure" is a work that is meant to convey the sense of a regular ritual of bathing, but the intimate, everyday nature of the subject is preserved. The piece is a sculpture that can be seen as a symbol of the passage of time, and it is meant to evoke a sense of nostalgia and reflection.

It is important to note that the titles of the works in the text are meant to convey a sense of nostalgia and reflection, and they are often associated with specific experiences or emotions. The works are meant to convey a sense of connection to the human experience and to encourage reflection on the passage of time.