




Daniel Chester French's Summer Home, Studio and Gardens: *A Site for Creativity* | The Pedestal Summer 2022

## Greetings

First and foremost, I send a fond farewell and heartfelt thank you to Donna Hassler who has retired as the Executive Director after 14 years. As interim I will do my best to continue Donna's steadfast vision for Chesterwood to be a site for creativity. So far this season we have truly seen an explosion of the arts all over the property - original choreography in the garden, poetry on the piazza, tableaux vivant in the studio, drawing and photography classes, dance workshops - the grounds of Chesterwood have been infused with creative energy. The landscape has also been enlivened and transformed through the stunning sculpture of Jonathan Prince. Twelve monumental works in steel with highly polished surfaces that serve as a lens for us to reflect upon our inner and outer surroundings. Don't miss the opportunity to hear Jonathan and curator Cassandra Sohn give a tour of the exhibition on September 18th at 4pm.

During your next visit take a peak into the newly renovated Morris Center Studio. With climate controls, an industrial sink and a new floor we now boast a highly functioning artist's studio in the heart of our property - marking another step in our journey to becoming a thriving community for all artists. Mark down September 2 for an artist's talk and reception with the studio's current occupant, Natalie Tyler. It's always wonderful to hear how artists are inspired by Daniel Chester French and Chesterwood!

With all best wishes,

  
Margaret Cherin

Interim Executive Director | [mcherin@chesterwood.org](mailto:mcherin@chesterwood.org)

## Curatorial News



Maquettes for *Manhattan*, 1914 and *Brooklyn*, 1914, Manhattan Bridge Groups, plaster

This summer we were chosen to participate in the Williams College Summer Arts Internship program in partnership with Chesterwood. One of our projects was to support curatorial researcher Dana Pilson who is currently engaged in cataloguing works in the Chesterwood collection that relate to French's public monument commissions. Working with the extensive Chesterwood archival collection, which is held by the Chapin Library at Williams College, and with Chesterwood's on-site Study Collections Gallery, we developed independent interpretations of two monumental series by French: *Four Continents* (1907), and the Manhattan Bridge group, *Manhattan and Brooklyn* (1916). Both sculptural groups exemplify French's prowess at sculpting neoclassical, allegorical figures with attention to symbolism and detail. Each sculpture also reveals antiquation in French's views and representations of the world, thus offering opportunities for critical analysis of his work on both artistic and historical levels. Our work with these public monuments coincides with current debates surrounding the legitimacy of displaying sculptures that preserve and celebrate, whether implicitly or explicitly, ideologies of imperialism or racism now held reproachable. Our essays on the sculptural groups will be incorporated into the Collections Cataloguing project and will eventually be made available through an on-line exhibition that will explore the hundreds of plaster models in Chesterwood's collection that relate to his public monument commissions across the country.

Paige Busse and Sofia Stefani, interns

## Buildings and Grounds Projects



Completed: new cedar roof and decorative trellis on the residence

This spring and summer marked immense progress in the third phase of the rehabilitation of the historic 1901 residence. With the first two phases complete (exterior stucco work and upgrades to exterior utilities), this phase completed the rebuilding and stuccoing of the chimneys, new cedar shake roof tiles, the complete abatement and renovation of the basement - new concrete floor, new walls with water deterring drainage, new water tank, new elevator shaft to second floor - to name a few of the modern safety and access improvements. The basement is now prepared to become a much-needed climate-controlled collections storage area for paintings and sculpture as well as a place to hold the Chesterwood institutional archives and accommodate researchers. While the residence had to be completely emptied and closed to the public during the renovation, we are on track to bring the historic rooms on the main floor back for viewing by next July.

Gerry Blache, Senior Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds





Illustrator Shawn Fields shared his preliminary drawings for *Monument Maker: Daniel Chester French and the Making of the Lincoln Memorial*, on Memorial Day

## Current Exhibitions



*Rumination* by Jonathan Prince along the woodland walk

**Elemental Matters: The Sculpture of Jonathan Prince** remains on view throughout the grounds at Chesterwood through October 24<sup>th</sup>. Visitors have come away impressed by how the natural beauty and cultivated landscape at Chesterwood intersects beautifully with Prince's work, crafted in CorTen and stainless steel, with multifaceted, shining surfaces that reflect the outdoors so effectively that art and world seem to meld into each other. Prince's work challenges the visual boundaries between solid and liquid forms, suggests ancient or futuristic relics, and evokes humanistic emotional and physiological states. Come visit and ponder compelling questions over the physicality of materials, and the symbolism within abstraction.

*Grounds-Only Tickets \$10*



*Liquid State*  
by Jonathan Prince

Also on view:

### Jonathan Prince: Fluidity of Light

Artist's Reception August 20<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm  
on view through September 5<sup>th</sup>

Sohn Fine Art

69 Church Street, Ste. 2, Lenox MA 01240  
info@sohnfineart.com | 413-551-7353



*Artist-in-Residence Beth Galston installs Ice Forest in the Woodland Gallery*

## Woodland Gallery

This season our guest curator Cassandra Sohn invited artist Beth Galston to create a site-specific installation in our newly refurbished Woodland Gallery. Known for creating immersive art environments, Galston designed **Ice Forest** through a process of improvisation during the artist's weeklong residency at Chesterwood in July. Combining nature, technology and light, Galston defines an interactive space through the layering of materials, both ephemeral and physical.

*Artist's Talk and Reception:*  
August 12<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 7pm, free

## Upcoming Events

August 12<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm

Artist's Talk & Reception with  
Beth Galston

August 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm

String Trio with Victoria Lewis

August 20<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00pm

Artist's Reception with  
Jonathan Prince at Sohn Fine  
Art in Lenox, MA

August 25<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm

Qualia Dance Collective

August 30<sup>th</sup> – September 20<sup>th</sup>

Live Figure Drawing Classes  
Register: [www.berkshireartcenter.org](http://www.berkshireartcenter.org)

September 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 5:00pm

Artist's Talk & Reception with  
Artist-in-Residence Natalie Tyler

September 18<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00pm

Artist & Curator's Tour with  
sculptor Jonathan Prince and  
curator Cassandra Sohn

October 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm

Reading and Conversation with  
author Simon Winchester

More information at

[www.chesterwood.org/calendar](http://www.chesterwood.org/calendar)  
413-298-2023