

Glenstone

Press Release

Glenstone to Present the Exhibition *Fred Sandback: Light, Space, Facts, Featuring Sculptures and Drawings from Each Decade of the Artists’ Career*

*New Outdoor Sculpture Tours of
Glenstone to Be Offered to All
Exhibition Visitors Glenstone Partners
with Strathmore on Musical
Programs to Accompany Exhibition*

POTOMAC, MD—Through December, 2016, Glenstone in Potomac, Maryland, has devoted all 9,000 square feet of the museum to an exhibition of the work of Fred Sandback (1943-2003), the American sculptor best known for his immersive installations made from acrylic, store-bought yarn. *Fred Sandback: Light, Space, Facts* is the first solo exhibition in the Washington, DC area of the artist’s work and explores the entire spectrum of his achievement, with drawings, wooden reliefs and steel sculptures in addition to the signature yarn installations.

Fred Sandback wrote that even though the “groundedness” of traditional sculpture appealed to him, he chose to move toward “a sculpture which became less of a thing-in-itself, more of a diffuse interface between myself, my environment, and others peopling that environment, built of thin lines that left enough room to move through and around. Still sculpture, though less dense, with an ambivalence between exterior and interior. A drawing that is habitable.” In this way, the material facts of Sandback’s yarn installations are inseparable from their environments: the light and space that surround and complete them.

Greeting visitors in Glenstone’s main entrance gallery is *Broadway Boogie Woogie (Sculptural Study, Twenty-Eight Part Vertical Construction)*, 1991/2006, an expansive installation of red, yellow, and blue acrylic yarn made in homage to artist Piet Mondrian’s iconic painting. It serves as a companion to another Mondrian-inspired work installed nearby, titled *Black Piet After P.M.: Composition with Red, Yellow, Blue. 1930*. Dated 2003, this diminutive wall relief is made of black paint on plywood. Together, these pieces offer dynamically different expressions of Sandback’s admiration for Mondrian.

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In addition to including several other large-scale installations from Sandback's later career, the Glenstone exhibition represents Sandback's early achievements with an array of materially diverse sculptures, always applied with a startling economy of means. Pieces from the late 1960s incorporate elastic cord and steel as well as yarn. *Untitled* (1968/1983), for example, is a four-part sculpture in acrylic primer on thin, mild-steel rods. These works expand the prevailing discussion of sculpture during the 1960s and 1970s, then anchored in the heavy, machine-made objects associated with Minimalism. In tracing the evolution of Sandback's work, they elegantly mine the full potential of their architectural surroundings, engaging Glenstone's corners, floor, ceiling, and walls.

In the words of Director and Chief Curator Emily Wei Rales, "Glenstone is dedicated especially to the moments of innovation in modern and contemporary art, when a new insight changed the world's idea of what a work of art can be. Without question, Fred Sandback was one of those breakthrough artists. Using yarn to outline geometric volumes within otherwise empty rooms, he created installations that may appear simple at first but have the power to alter your sense of where you are, creating complex, dynamic perceptions of the space all around you."

Fred Sandback: Light, Space, Facts has been organized by Emily Wei Rales, with Anne Reeve, Assistant Curator, in collaboration with the Fred Sandback Estate. All works in the exhibition are from the Glenstone collection.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Glenstone has partnered with Strathmore, the multi-disciplinary arts center in Bethesda, Maryland, to present a series of musical performances inspired by Sandback's work. Each performance will be presented over two dates, the first at AMP by Strathmore and the second at Glenstone. The first Counterpoint events featured Hamilton Leithauser, former frontman of The Walkmen, on October 2 and 3, 2015. The second concerts will showcase European boogie-woogie jazz virtuosos Chris Conz and Luca Sestak at AMP by Strathmore on March 18, 2016 and at Glenstone on March 19, 2016.

As another new initiative, Glenstone now offers all visitors to the exhibition the option of also taking a one-hour guided tour of its outdoor sculpture installations.

About Fred Sandback

Fred Sandback (1943-2003) was born in Bronxville, New York, and educated at Yale University, where he received his B.A. in philosophy and went on to study sculpture in the School of Art and Architecture. His earliest solo exhibitions were held in Germany (the same year that the Whitney Museum of American Art included him in its Annual Exhibition).

His earliest solo museum exhibitions, held in 1969 at Museum Haus Lange, Krefeld and in 1973 at the Kunsthalle Bern were followed by exhibitions at institutions including The Museum of Modern Art and P.S. 1 (1978), the Kunsthaus Zurich (1985), Städtische Kunsthalle in Mannheim (1986), Dia Art Foundation (1988 and 1996), the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston and the Yale University Art Gallery (1989), the Henry Moore Institute and the Lannan Foundation (1999), the Chinati Foundation (2001) and Museo Tamayo (2002). Posthumous exhibitions have included the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich (2003), Kunstmuseum Liechtenstein (2003, and tour), Whitechapel Art Gallery (2011) and Kunstmuseum Winterthur (2014, and tour). From 1981 through 1996, the Dia Art Foundation maintained a museum in Winchendon, Massachusetts, dedicated solely to his work, and Dia:Beacon keeps his work permanently on display.

Fred Sandback's work is in numerous institutional collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Whitney Museum of American Art, National Gallery of Art, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Library of Congress, Art Institute of Chicago, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Menil Collection, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Walker Art Center, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Musée National d'Art Moderne Centre Pompidou, Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, Kunsthaus Zurich and Museum für Moderne Kunst in Frankfurt am Main.

About Glenstone

Glenstone, a museum of modern and contemporary art, is integrated into 200 acres of gently rolling pasture and unspoiled woodland in Montgomery County, Maryland, less than 15 miles from the heart of Washington, DC. Established by the not-for-profit Glenstone Foundation, the museum, known as the Gallery, opened in 2006 and provides a contemplative, intimate setting for experiencing iconic works of art and architecture within a natural environment. Glenstone presents extraordinary outdoor sculptures and installations within a landscape designed by Peter Walker and Partners and selections from an art collection of significant depth and breadth in the Gallery building by the late Charles Gwathmey of Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects. Glenstone is currently in the process of constructing a second museum building, called the Pavilions, designed by Thomas Phifer, as well as a new public entrance, an entry pavilion, a café and an expanded landscape.

Admission to Glenstone is free. Visits are scheduled by reservation to ensure a serene atmosphere for all guests.

During the presentation of *Fred Sandback: Light, Space, Facts*, Glenstone will be open Wednesday through Saturday through March and beginning in April will be open Thursday through Sunday from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm, with tours of the exhibition scheduled between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Outdoor sculpture tours will be offered every hour as an added option for visitors to the exhibition. Tours may be scheduled by visiting the Glenstone website at: www.glenstone.org/visit.

About Strathmore

Strathmore is a nonprofit multi-disciplinary arts center and presenting organization based one-half mile outside the Capital Beltway in North Bethesda, Maryland. Best known for performances and events at the Music Center at Strathmore, the organization has been presenting accessible, affordable visual and performing arts in the smaller Mansion at Strathmore and all over its 16-acre site since 1981. Strathmore also presents throughout the community and at a new 250-seat venue, AMP, at Pike & Rose. The Music Center at Strathmore is home to several arts and education partners including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, The National Philharmonic, Washington Performing Arts, Levine Music, CityDance, InterPLAY and Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras. For more information: www.strathmore.org and www.AMPbyStrathmore.com.

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