

Gettysburg College
Musselman
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Guide to MS-288:

Creation and Preservation of Martin Puryear's Sentinel



Gettysburg College, Musselman Library
Special Collections and College Archives

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June 2022

MS-288: Creation and Preservation of Martin Puryear's Sentinel

Processed by Merlyn Ivana Maldonado Lopez '22

June, 2022

Size

1 box, .33 cu ft

Location

Special Collections

Dates

Inclusive: 1980 - 2009

Bulk: 1980 – 1982 & 2002 - 2004

Provenance

Special Collections acquired this collection as a transfer from Schmucker Art Gallery in 2021.

Biographical Note

Born on May 23, 1941, in Washington, DC, Martin Puryear is an acclaimed American artist. Throughout his career, Puryear has participated in various renowned exhibitions and received prestigious grants and awards. Including the Individual Artist Fellowship from the NEA, the Guggenheim Fellowship, and the MacArthur Fellowship. His work has been featured in various museums including the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Modern Art with the self-titled exhibition "Martin Puryear." Puryear has also worked in France at the invitation of the French Government and in 2011 he was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama.¹

Molly Hutton was the Director of Gettysburg College's Schmucker Art Gallery from 2002 to 2007.

Historical Note

Established by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Art in Public Places Grant's goal was to make the best in contemporary art accessible to the public and to give new opportunities to living American artists. After being awarded the Art in Public Places Grant, Gettysburg College matched funds and commissioned sculptor Martin Puryear to build a sculpture on campus. The sculpture, *Sentinel*, commemorates the school's sesquicentennial anniversary.²

Scope and Content Note

This collection includes records from Gettysburg College's application process to the NEA, the selection process of the artist, images from the installation process of *Sentinel*, correspondence and an interview

¹ Maldonado Lopez, Merlyn and Shannon Egan. *Martin Puryear, 40 Years Since Sentinel*. Gettysburg, PA: Schmucker Art Gallery, Gettysburg College, 2021, 8 – 12.

² *Ibid.*, 7 – 8.

with Martin Puryear, newspaper cutouts of *Sentinel's* reception. As well as records from Molly Hutton's efforts to seek awareness and funding for the preservation and conservation of *Sentinel* in the early 2000s. Records from the application for an assessment award under Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!), and a manuscript for a story on *Sentinel* to be featured in the *GETTYSBURG* alumni magazine are also included.

Subjects

Sentinel. Martin Puryear. National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Art in Public Places. Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!). Sculpture. African American Artists. Abstract Art.

Series Description

This collection is divided into 2 Series, both are arranged chronologically.

Series 1: The Creation and Installation of *Sentinel*., **Series 2:** Molly Hutton's *Sentinel* Preservation Efforts.

Box list

Series I: The Creation and Installation of *Sentinel*

1-0 (box 1, folder 0) Finding Aid and Research Materials

- Schmucker Art Gallery Catalog, *Martin Puryear 40 Years Since Sentinel*, 2021.

1-1 (box 1, folder 1) Records of Gettysburg College NEA Application Process, June 1980 – Jan. 1981

- Memorandum from College Dean Robert Nordvall delineating steps to apply to the NEA to commission an outdoor work of sculpture as part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1982, and creation of Ad Hoc Sculpture Committee, June 5, 1980.
- Memorandum from College President Charles E. Glassick appointing members for the Ad Hoc Sculpture Committee and delineating the committees' responsibilities, June 11, 1980.
- Memorandum to members of Ad Hoc Sculpture Committee with more information and establishing first meeting, June 13, 1980.
- Memorandum with notes from meeting and future plans, June 24, 1980.
- Gettysburg College letter of intent to the NEA, June 27, 1980
- NEA letter to Gettysburg College to proceed with application for the Art in Public Places grant, Sept 18, 1980.
- NEA's memorandum detailing Art in Public Places grant guideline.
- Memorandum from Nordvall to Glassick with updates of application and details, Sept 23, 1980.
- Memorandum stating Glassick's approval to continue with final application for the NEA and delineating next steps, Oct 27, 1980.
- Copy of Gettysburg College application to NEA for Art in Public Places grant, Jan 15, 1981.

1-2 (box 1, folder 2) Gettysburg College Artist Look-Out and Records detailing Puryear's Plans, Installation, and Completion of *Sentinel* Dec. 1981 – Oct. 1982.

- Ad Hoc Committee's letter informing completion of panel to select artist, Dec 23, 1980.
- Memorandum confirming February 11, 1981 as the date in which the selection panel will meet to decide on an artist, Jan. 15, 1981.
- Martin Puryear's resume.
- Handwritten notes taken by Professor Alan Paulson during selection day, Feb. 11, 1981.
- Memorandum confirming Puryear's visit to Gettysburg, Feb. 13, 1981
- Memorandum confirming the panel has selected Martin Puryear and his upcoming visit to Gettysburg College campus, Feb. 16, 1981.
- Gettysburg College submission of artist selection to NEA, Feb. 19, 1981.
- Memorandum from Nordvall confirming Gettysburg College has officially been awarded the grant from the NEA and a timetable of following steps, Aug. 26, 1981.
- Correspondence between Gettysburg College and Martin Puryear with discussions to reschedule the timing of the sculpture's completion, Sept. 1981 – Oct. 1981.
- Correspondence between Gettysburg College and Martin Puryear discussing small art show with preliminary drawings and models of the proposed sculpture, Dec. 1981 – Jan. 1982.
- Correspondence between Gettysburg College faculty about the small art show with preliminary drawings and models of the proposed sculpture by Martin Puryear, March 1982 – April 1982.
- Memorandums discussing the upcoming arrival of Martin Puryear to construct the sculpture, May 6, 1982 – July 12, 1982.
- Memorandum discussing the date of the sculpture's dedication, Sept. 9, 1982.
- Memorandum discussing public lecture to be hosted by Martin Puryear Oct. 2 1982 – Oct. 5, 1982.

1-3 (box 1, folder 3) Martin Puryear, Robert Nordvall, Alan Paulson, Nicholas Micros '82 Interview conducted Fall 1982 and Transcription of Puryear's Interview by Molly Hutton 2003

- CD with audio of interviews. First Audio includes Nordvall and Paulson's conjoined interview, as well as Nicholas Micros solo interview. Second Audio includes Martin Puryear's interview.
- Transcript of Martin Puryear's 1982 interview done by Molly Hutton, May 2003.
- Molly Hutton's interview notes.

1-4 (box 1, folder 4) Photographs of *Sentinel's* Installation 1982

- 14 photograph slides taken by Dorothea Barrick
- CD with digital imaging of the photograph slides

1-5 (box 1, folder 5) *Sentinel* and Puryear Newspaper and Magazine Cutouts

- *Sunday News*, "Meet Sculptor Who'll Create College Work" by Ruthe F. Craley Sunday News Correspondent, April 1982.
- *The Gettysburgian*, "Piece of Mind: Sesquicentennial Sculpture, What Is It?" by Ellen McDaniel, April 30, 1982.

- *The Gettysburgian*, images of Micros and Puryear on campus, Oct. 4, 1982
- *The Gettysburg Times*, Letters to the Editor by Walter L. Powell.
- *The Gettysburgian*, "Another Student's Opinion of "The Sculpture"" by Michael Ripley '84
- *Sunday Patriot News*, "Modernistic Sculpture Draws Mixed Reviews" by Jim Newkirk, Oct. 24, 1982.
- *The Gettysburg Times*, "Puryear Completes Sculpture at College" by Martin Sipkoff, Oct. 25, 1982
- *The Gettysburgian*, "Sesquicentennial Sculpture: The Value of Art" by Mark Robbins '83, Oct. 29, 1982
- *The Gettysburgian*, "Gettysburg College Dedicates Sesquicentennial Sculpture" by Rebecca Brubaker.
- *Sunday News*, "Sculpture At Gettysburg College: Is it Art Or 'Sore thumb?'" by Jeffrey R. Roth
- Puryear's *Sentinel* featured in *Annual 1983's "1982 in Review Public Art: at diverse sites across the country, an impressive variety of large-scale public projects that reshape the lived environment."*
- Copies of when Martin Puryear talks about *Sentinel* with Hugh M. Davies and Helanie Posner for catalogue of self-titled exhibition "Martin Puryear," 1984.

Series II: Molly Hutton's *Sentinel* Preservation Efforts.

1-6 (box 1, folder 6) SOS! Assessment Award Records March 11, 2002 – March 21, 2003

- Email from Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!) directed to Director of Schmucker Art Gallery informing about opportunity to receive an award for conservation assessments, March 11, 2002.
- SOS! information sheet about Assessment Awards, March 11, 2002.
- Copy of blank SOS! Survey Questionnaire.
- Copy of SOS! Survey Questionnaire filled out by Gettysburg College's Molly Hutton, Oct. 11, 2002.
- Correspondence between SOS! and Gettysburg College. SOS! informs Gettysburg College has been granted an SOS! Assessment Award to sponsor an onsite professional assessment of *Sentinel* by Martin Puryear and records for the Guidelines and Agreement to award, Dec. 4, 2002 – Jan. 17, 2003.
- SOS! Assessment Award Expense Report, Jan. 27, 2003.
- Email from Hutton to SOS! detailing Scott Kreilick's conservation assessment of Martin Puryear's *Sentinel*, March 21, 2003.
- Packet with SOS! dated material for Gettysburg College.

1-7 (box 1, folder 7) *Sentinel* Research and Clippings from 1995 – 2003

- *Art & Antiques*, "Skill, Vision, and Craft: Martin Puryear lets his sculpture speak for itself" by George Melrod, June 1995.
- *Sculpture*, Martin Puryear's *Seattle* written by Matthew Kangas, July/Aug. 1997.
- *Oxford History of Art*, "African-American Art" by Sharon F. Patton, 1998.

- *Sculpture Magazine*, "Martin Puryear: The Call of History" by Jan Garden Castro, 1998.
- *International Review of African American Art*, "Matter, mind and Martin Puryear" by Jeffrey Bruce, 2001.
- *TIME*, "Martin Puryear: A master of both modernism and traditional crafts, he created sculptures that are a synthesis of beauty but free of cliché" by Robert Hughes, July 9 2001.
- *Art in America*, "Martin Puryear's "Ars Poetica"," by Janet Koplos, Dec. 2001.
- *ARTnews*, "Brunhilde Stripped Bare: In his latticework structure, Martin Puryear gives his diva full body and full voice" by Lilly Wei, Dec. 2001.
- *Sculpture*, "Miami: Martin Puryear: Miami Art Museum" by Laura Albritton, Jan./Feb. 2002.
- *art:21*, Martin Puryear's Biography, 2003.
- Sheet of "Selected Biography" for Martin Puryear
- Oxford definitions for "monolith"
- OED definitions of "sentinel"
- Copy of *Sculpture* magazine October 2002 vol. 21 no.8.

1-8 (box 1, folder 8) Molly Hutton and *Sentinel* story for *GETTYSBURG* alumni magazine Autumn 2003 and Summer 1004.

- Correspondence between Molly Hutton, Gettysburg College staff, museums, and other institutions during Hutton's writing process for *Sentinel's* story to be featured in the *GETTYSBURG* alumni magazine, March 31, 2003 – June 5, 2003.
- Two Molly Hutton manuscripts of "Under the Gaze of *Sentinel*" with copy-editing.
- Copy of *GETTYSBURG* magazine. Includes the final version of Hutton's "Under the Gaze of *Sentinel*," autumn 2003.
- Robert Nordvall's email to Molly Hutton thanking for her kind words in "Under the Gaze of *Sentinel*," Nov. 13, 2003.
- Correspondence between Molly Hutton and Jerold Wikoff for *Sentinel's* conservation efforts to be featured in *GETTYSBURG* magazine summer issue, April 29 – 30 2004.
- Copies of *GETTYSBURG* magazine with blurb on "Restoring *Sentinel*" and Martin Robbins '83 "Watching Over G-Burg" where he reminisces on his life on campus when *Sentinel* was built and his experience writing "The Value of Art" for the *Gettysburgian*. Summer, 2004.

1-9 (box 1, folder 9) Molly Hutton's Funding Search for *Sentinel's* Conservation 2003

- Molly Hutton's letter to Provost Dan DeNicola informing about *Sentinel* and its condition report and treatment proposal, May 16, 2003.
- Correspondence between Molly Hutton and the Getty Grant Program, Aug. 2003 - Sept. 2003.
- Grants to organizations list, 2003
- Three sample letters from Gettysburg College for proposals and inquiries, 2000, 2001, 2002.

1-10 (box 1, folder 10) Kreilick *Sentinel's* Conservation Reports June 2004

- Flyer of "Lunchtime Conversation with Scott Kreilick on his treatment plans for Martin Puryear's *Sentinel*," April 19, 2004.
- Invoice form Kreilick Conservation, June 29, 2004.
- Report of "Conservation of *Sentinel* (1982) by Martin Puryear Gettysburg College, Gettysburg Pennsylvania," June 29, 2004.
- Letter of Transmittal (and copy), June 30, 2004.
- Email from Arnold Wood Conservation to Molly Hutton in regard to Puryear's remaining wooden mold, July 2004.

1-11 (box 1, folder 11) Correspondence with Martin Puryear 2003 - 2004 & 2021

- Correspondence between Martin Puryear and Molly Hutton with information and updates regarding the assessment and conservation work done to *Sentinel*. March 24, 2003 – Sept. 28, 2004.
- Letter from Jeanne Englert (P.A. to M. Puryear) to Shannon Egan gifting two art catalogs to the Gettysburg College Library.

1-12 (box 1, folder 12) *Sentinel* for Museum of Modern Art 2007

- Correspondence between Molly Hutton and the NY MOMA in regard to images of *Sentinel* being featured in the accompanying catalogue for the MOMA organized exhibition *Martin Puryear*, Jan. 24, 2007 – Nov. 14, 2007.

1-13 (box 1, folder 13) Photographs of *Sentinel* after Conservation Work

- 3 sheets with 45 photograph slides taken by Bill Dowling, 2004
- CD with a couple of the photographs taken by Bill Dowling
- 2 Kodak Picture Color Slides
- 2 4x6" color photographs of *Sentinel*, not dated

1-14 (box 1, folder 14) Austin Clark's essay "The Unsung Vigilance: The History of *Sentinel*"

- Manuscript of Clark's essay, Oct. 1, 2009.
- Transcript of Clark's interview with Professor A. Ralph Cavaliere, Sept. 21, 2009.
- Transcript of Clark's interview with Alan Paulson with Professor Carol Small, Sept. 22, 2009

Sources

- Maldonado Lopez, Merlyn and Shannon Egan. *Martin Puryear, 40 Years Since Sentinel*. Gettysburg, PA: Schmucker Art Gallery, Gettysburg College, 2021.

Related Materials

- Benezra, Neal David. *Martin Puryear*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1991.
- Crutchfield, Margo A. *Martin Puryear*. Richmond: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 2001.
- Pascale, Mark, and Ruth Fine. *Martin Puryear: Multiple Dimensions*. First edition. Chicago, Illinois: The Art Institute of Chicago, 2015.

Additional Information

- Jennifer Field, "Chronology," in *Martin Puryear*, ed. John Elderfield (New York: Museum of Modern Art, 2007).
- Ruth Fine, "Making Drawings, Drawing as Making," in *Martin Puryear: Multiple dimensions*, ed. Mark Pascale (Chicago: The Art Institute of Chicago, 2015).

Contact Information

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