

# public art & sculpture

This guide to public art on campus offers a great way to safely explore campus during the ongoing pandemic, although some of the indoor art pieces may be closed to the public. Please follow appropriate social distancing measures, even while outside, and follow Chicago and Illinois state guidelines for safe conduct during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## CAMPUS NORTH

### VERA AND A. D. ELDEN SCULPTURE GARDEN

#### Smart Museum of Art

5550 S. Greenwood Ave.

[smartmuseum.uchicago.edu](http://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu)

Redesigned in partnership with Urban Lab in 2008, the sculpture garden located between the Smart Museum of Art and the Cochrane-Woods Art Center is a one-of-a-kind space at UChicago. It is home to three unassuming yet impressive sculptures: Louise Nevelson's aluminum *Sky Sentinels* (1976), Jene Highstein's marble *Truncated Pyramid* (1989), and Scott Burton's granite *Bench and Table* (1991), the only sculpture on campus designed for daily use. The Smart Museum is home to diverse and thought-provoking exhibitions, events, and programs. Admission is free.

### GRANDE RADAR, ARNALDO POMODORO

#### West side of the Cochrane Woods Art Center

5540 S. Greenwood Ave.

Italian sculptor Arnaldo Pomodoro is known for the complex, chaotic geometry of many of his works, and *Grande Radar* is no exception. Installed in 1974, the weighty bronze object is best viewed up close to appreciate the intense detail, including the surprising shapes around the back that seem to be splitting the artwork open. The sculpture's vantage point also offers views of Richard Hunt's fluid bronze *Why*, and the intersecting bars of John Henry's black aluminum *Forecast*.

### NUCLEAR ENERGY, HENRY MOORE

#### Just north of Mansueto Library

On S. Ellis Ave. between E. 56th St. and E. 57th St.

Now a National Historic Landmark, the site of the world's first nuclear reactor ("Chicago Pile-1") is marked by this famous Henry Moore sculpture. The work, which Moore claimed represented the duality of hope and tragedy present in mankind's inventions, was installed on December 2nd, 1967: the 25th anniversary of the first self-sustaining, man-made nuclear chain reaction. Moore drew inspiration from many sources, including mushroom clouds and the stately architecture of cathedrals.



**Photo:** *Nuclear Energy*, Henry Moore. Photo by Cassandra Dunn.

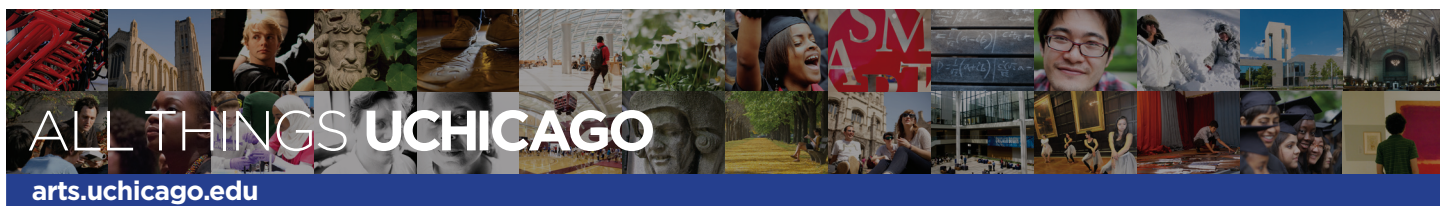
## CENTRAL CAMPUS

### EARTH, WATER, SKY, RUTH DUCKWORTH

#### Entrance to the Henry Hinds Laboratory

5734 S. Ellis Ave.

During her time as a faculty member at the University in the 60s, visual artist Ruth Duckworth was commissioned to create a mural for the Department of the Geophysical Sciences—the result was an intricate, topographical map of deep grooves, swirling protrusions, and startling textures. The ceramic mural covers four walls and the ceiling of the lab's entrance, and is composed of hundreds of individually-sculpted tiles. One wall includes a hidden surprise: an inscription commemorating Duckworth's dog, Bruno, who passed away during the mural's creation.



### **BLACK SPHERE, JENE HIGHSTEIN**

**Across from the Renaissance Society (Cobb Hall)**

On S. Ellis Ave. between E. 58th St. and E. 59th St.

[renaissancesociety.org](http://renaissancesociety.org)

First installed in 1980 as part of a temporary Renaissance Society exhibition, Jene Highstein's sphere was so popular that Betsy and Andy Rosenfield purchased it and gave it permanently to the University. The 3,000-pound sculpture was made by gradually hand-layering concrete over a hollow steel structure, approximating a spherical shape. Black Sphere is also a seasoned traveler, having spent time at UC Berkeley (1979) and MoMA New York (1984). The Renaissance Society presents contemporary art exhibitions and events. Admission is free.

### **DIALOGO, VIRGINIO FERRARI**

**Northeast edge of Albert Pick Hall**

5828 S. University Ave.

Former faculty member and Midway Studios sculptor-in-residence Virginio Ferrari is one of UChicago's most prolific sculptors. Several of his works are on campus, with many more located around Chicago. *Dialogo* ("Dialogue") was unveiled in 1971 for the opening of Pick Hall and, with its curving bronze forms and rounded ends, remains a symbol of global unity for the International Studies Department to this day. Though the idea has been debunked many times, popular local legends still claim the sculpture casts a "hammer and sickle"-shaped shadow on International Workers' Day.

### **IDEE DI PIETRA (IDEAS OF STONE), GIUSEPPE PENONE**

**Booth School Courtyard**

5807 S. Woodlawn Ave.

*Ideas of Stone* is one of the newer sculptures on campus (installed 2010), and one of the most unique in terms of its construction. The trunk and branches, while life-like, are made of carefully sculpted bronze wrapped around a stainless steel core, and the smooth granite rocks are real boulders collected near artist Giuseppe Penone's home in Italy. The live holly tree at the base is also part of the sculpture, though its growth seems almost coincidental. Fondly known as "the tree," *Ideas of Stone* has quickly become a campus favorite.



**Photo:** *Idee Di Pietra (Ideas of Stone)*, Giuseppe Penone. Photo by Tom Rossiter.

### **CRYSTARA, JOHN DAVID MOONEY**

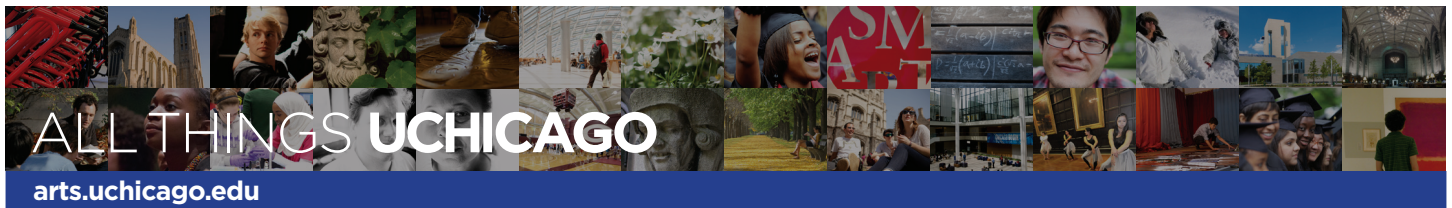
**West side of the John Crerar Library**

5730 S. Ellis Ave.

*Crystara*, a 30-foot long aluminum and Waterford crystal sculpture by John David Mooney, is one of the few site-specific works on campus. It was commissioned in 1984 to enhance the three-story atrium of the newly-built Crerar Library, and has been securely suspended over the heads of library patrons ever since. The crystal cross-bars, which were hand-cut with stone blades in the original Waterford factory in Ireland, create a shifting prismatic effect in the atrium's natural light, and the sculpture's design suggests an immense stairway. The crystal design was so unique that it was later turned into a vase and sold in Chicago.

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## CAMPUS SOUTH

### **SHALER MEMORIAL ANGEL, LORADO TAFT**

#### **Midway Studios**

6016 S. Ingleside Ave.

Famous sculptor and former faculty member Lorado Taft is primarily remembered for his massive monumental works, though he also made a number of smaller figures. “The Angel,” as it is colloquially known, is a reproduction of a memorial sculpture called *Recording Angel*, which still sits at the grave of Blanche Shaler, a friend of the artist, in Wisconsin. In 1969, the duplicate (which marked the grave of Dr. Theodore Burgess, former president of Bradley University) was moved from its Peoria, Illinois cemetery due to repeated vandalism, and given to the University by alumna Helena Page (née Burgess).

### **FOUNTAIN OF TIME, LORADO TAFT**

#### **Washington Park**

5531 S. Martin Luther King Dr.

Though not part of the public art on campus, the immense concrete sculpture *Fountain of Time* has been connected to University history since the early 1900s. Sculptor Lorado Taft designed it as part of a “Midway Beautiful” redevelopment project he proposed while a faculty member at UChicago. The work was inspired by Henry Austin Dobson’s “The Paradox of Time” poem, and reportedly includes likenesses of both Taft and his daughters.

### **CONSTRUCTION IN SPACE AND IN THE THIRD AND FOURTH DIMENSIONS, ANTOINE PEVSNER**

#### **Laird Bell Law Quadrangle**

1111 E. 60th St.

Eero Saarinen, architect of the Law School building, once said that a sculpture by Antoine Pevsner would complement his design perfectly. His wish was fulfilled posthumously in 1964 by alumnus Alex Hillman, ’24 who gave the bronze *Construction* to the school. The sculpture’s main feature is its smooth, twisting design that reminds the viewer of a Möbius strip. The work is meant to evoke the passage of space-time, with the fourth dimension (time) existing in the light rippling off the sculpture’s surfaces, the nearby building’s glass, and the zero-depth reflecting pool.




**Photo:** *Construction in Space and in the Third and Fourth Dimensions*, Antoine Pevsner. Photo by Tom Rossiter.

### **DIARCHY, KENNETH ARMITAGE**

#### **Laird Bell Law Quadrangle**

1111 E. 60th St.

With the Pevsner sculpture so prominently displayed in the Law Quadrangle, it’s easy to miss the bronze work just off to the right. *Diarchy*, an abstract rendering of two regal, seated figures with protruding limbs and heads, was sculpted by English artist Kenneth Armitage in the late 50s, and given to the Law School in 1978 by alumnus Dino D’Angelo and his wife. The sculpture was installed prior to the landscaping of the quadrangle, and has continued to preside over decades of changes since then.

 **TIP:** Public art is an integral component to the University of Chicago campus that extends the intellectual life of the university, making it a truly unique and inspirational destination. To learn more about Public Art on Campus, please visit [arts.uchicago.edu/public-art](https://arts.uchicago.edu/public-art).

Share your experience

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**8 CRYSTARA**  
5730 S. Ellis Ave.

**9 SHALER MEMORIAL ANGEL**  
6016 S. Ingleside Ave.

**10 FOUNTAIN OF TIME**  
5531 S. Martin Luther King Dr.

**11 CONSTRUCTION IN SPACE AND IN THE THIRD AND FOURTH DIMENSIONS & DIARCHY**  
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