



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

Yes! For Lady Day, 1968

Mark di Suvero

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

Governors State University (University Park, IL)

Millennium Park is currently the site of an exhibition of four large-scale works by the great American abstract expressionist sculptor Mark di Suvero. Mark has insisted that a photograph of his 1968 sculpture *Yes! For Lady Day* be included in the exhibition. This stunning work has personally influenced me more than any of the hundreds of additional artworks that I later acquired.

I had the incredible privilege of watching Mark choose the railroad tank car that made up the bulk of the work, split it into 2 parts, and assemble those parts and several steel beams into an amazing work of art.



Mark di Suvero, *Yes! For Lady Day*, 1968-69. Railroad tank car, steel I-beams, cable. Gift of Lewis Manilow. Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, Governors State University, University Park, Illinois. Image © 2008 Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

Mark worked steel like the male half of a pas de deux, with strength, delicacy, and respect. He started with one helper but soon had a dozen more; students, artists, and steelworkers who heard of the creation of his steel giants on the Illinois prairie.

Mark's artistry responded to the steel, the prairie, and Chicago. It was because of him that I created a sculpture park, which now includes the works of Bruce Nauman, Mary Miss, John Henry, Tony Tasset, and a score of others. All of these artists responded to the site and to Mark's vision. I named the park after my late father because he would also have loved Mark's daring and determination, reflected through the power of his art in a tough landscape.



Lewis Manilow
Philanthropist and National Medal of Arts Honoree

The Chicago-based Terra Foundation for American Art is proud to sponsor *American Art American City*, a Chicago-wide initiative designed to promote awareness and appreciation of historical American art. Between October 2007 and December 2008, approximately 30 partner organizations around the city are offering a wide array of American art activities, including exhibitions and tours of important and rarely seen collections, television programming, lectures and more.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK, a campaign in conjunction with *American Art American City*, is designed to highlight the wealth of American art treasures available in Chicago. A group of prominent Chicagoans have shared their personal responses to a favorite work of historical American art, whether on display in a Chicago museum, park, school or downtown plaza.