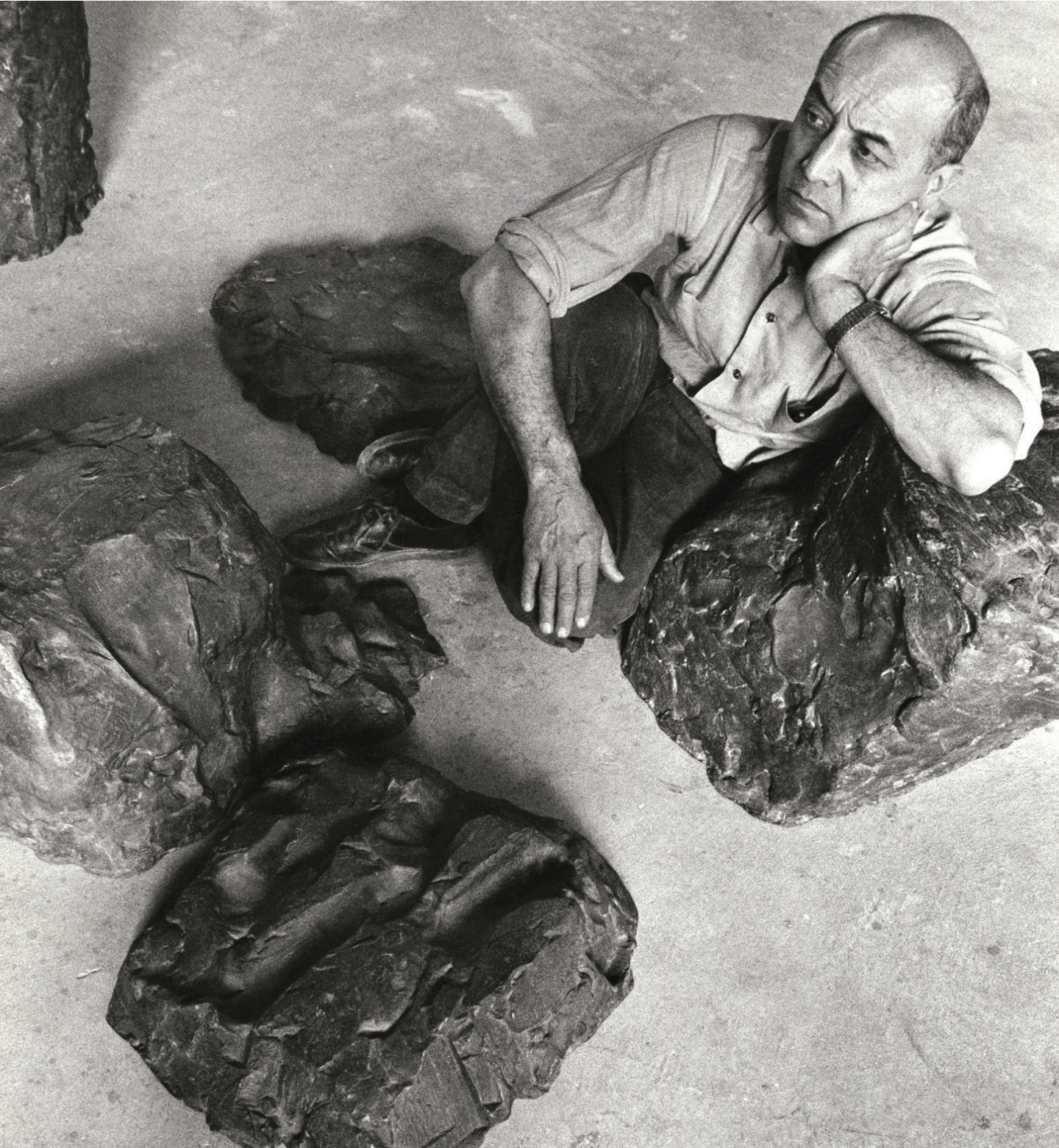


# Art in the Garden

Isamu Noguchi:  
We Are the Landscape of All We Know

Summer 2013



# Isamu Noguchi: We Are the Landscape of All We Know

Co-created by Matthew Kirsch, Noguchi Museum, and Diane Durston, Portland Japanese Garden, this exhibition was on loan to the Garden from The Noguchi Museum in New York. The works in this exhibition date from the late 1940s to the mid 1980s, spanning the artist's long career in sculpture and design. The exhibition features 22 works in stone, metal, and paper on view in the Garden Pavilion Gallery with a selection of large scale stone work on view outdoors on the Overlook Courtyard.

Born in Los Angeles to an American mother and a Japanese father, Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988) lived in Japan until the age of 13. He returned to the United States to live and study, finally moving to New York, where he was greatly influenced by an exhibition of works by Constantin Brancusi. Noguchi traveled to Paris on a Guggenheim fellowship in 1927, and after a fortuitous introduction, worked in Brancusi's studio. Returning to New York in 1929, Noguchi made a living during the depression as a portrait sculptor, earning money to fund other projects, including his travel expenses to work on a mural commission in Mexico City. His first large commission in the United States was a sculpture depicting the freedom of the press for the entrance of the Associated Press Building in New York City, completed in 1940.

Why do I continuously go back to Japan, except to renew my contact with the earth?

I S A M U N O G U C H I

After World War II, Noguchi's work expanded to include gardens, fountains, and the large-scale public sculptures for which he is widely known. He continued to work in New York City, and established a second studio in 1969 in the village of Mure on the



island of Shikoku in Japan. Toward the end of a long internationally acclaimed career, Noguchi opened The Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum (now known as The Noguchi Museum), in Long Island City, Queens, New York in 1985. The museum, established and designed by the artist, marked the culmination of his commitment to public spaces. His studio in Shikoku was opened to the public in 1999 as the Noguchi Garden Museum.

In 1986, Noguchi represented the United States at the Venice Biennale. He received the Edward MacDowell Medal for Outstanding Lifetime Contribution to the Arts in 1982; the Kyoto Prize in Arts in 1986; the National Medal of Arts in 1987; and the Order of Sacred Treasure from the Japanese government in 1988.

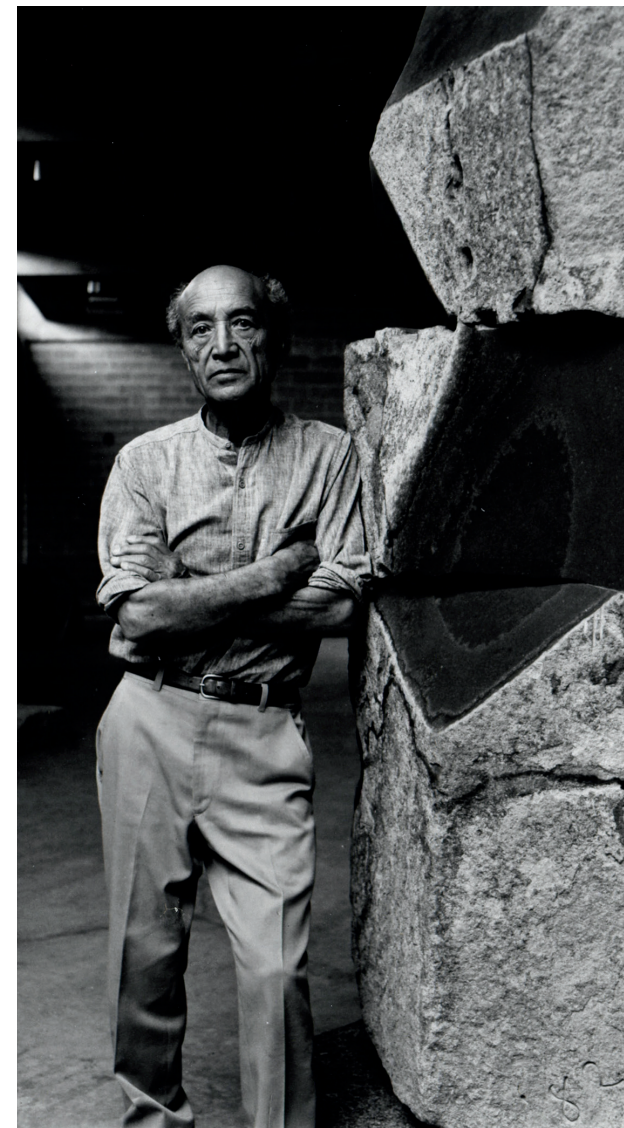
Garden Elements, 1962, bronze, Isamu Noguchi  
Photo by Jonathan Ley

If sculpture is the rock, it is also the space between rocks and between the rock and a man, and the communication and contemplation between.

I S A M U N O G U C H I



(Left to right) Overlook Garden, Cloud Mountain, Odalisque, and Tsukubai, Isamu Noguchi



Young Mountain, 1970, Aji granite  
Photo provided by The Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum

Isamu Noguchi with Brilliance, 1986  
Photo by Shigeo Anzai

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This exhibition is organized in collaboration with The Isamu  
Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum and Arlene Schnitzer  
Curator of Culture, Art, and Education, Diane Durston.



*Back cover: Stone of Spiritual Understanding, 1962, bronze and aluminium, Isamu Noguchi  
Front cover: Isamu Noguchi with Lessons of Musokokushi, 1966 Photo by Nicolas Ekstrom*

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