

CONNECTICUT:



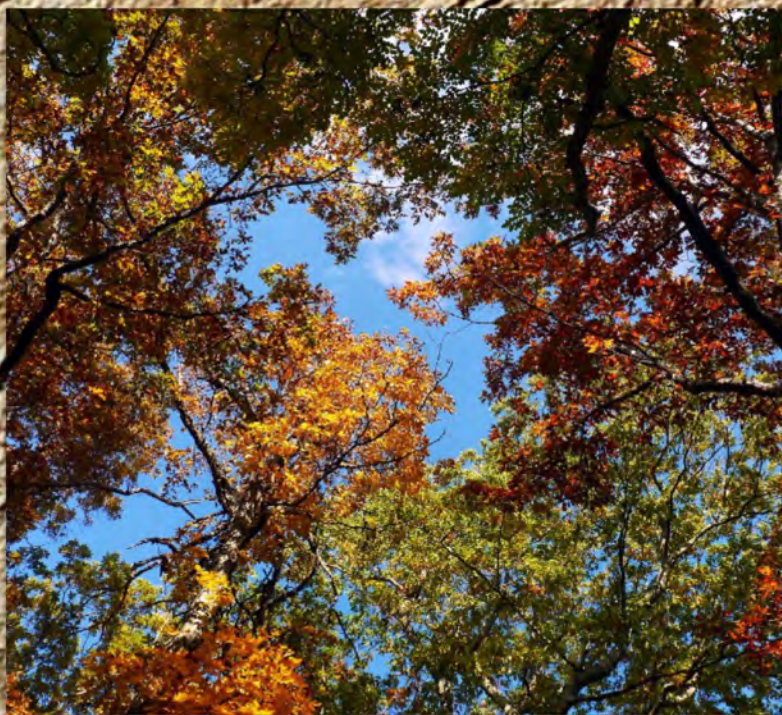
Sculpture parks offer new perspectives, regenerative healing, and inspiration



PLACE:

"Yankee Doodle Dandy" is the state song of Connecticut, a place whose name originates from the Mohegan-Pequot word Quinnehtukqut or Quonoktacut, referring to a long, winding or tidal river. While some think of Connecticut as "The Constitution State," noted on its license plates, its unofficial name of the "Nutmeg State" is more endearing.

Some suggest it was called the Nutmeg State since this once expensive spice was imported during the colonial era for use in early American cuisine. Others reference those returning from voyages to the Spice Islands, whittling wooden nutmegs as souvenirs. But the more common theory of the Nutmeg State alludes to swindlers selling wooden pieces in the shape of nutmegs to unsuspecting traders during times past. Vending counterfeit nutmegs also led to the name of those still living in Connecticut, as "nutmeggers," a moniker not universally loved by its residents.



Today, Connecticut is a place known for its antique shops, maritime history, and prestigious colleges with native luminaries such as Harriet Beecher Stowe (abolitionist and author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*), Nathan Hale (American patriot and spy), P.T. Barnum (3-ring showman), and Noah Webster (lexicographer and creator of the American dictionary).

Those born elsewhere who resided in the state include opera singer and civil rights pioneer Marian Anderson, literary giant Mark Twain, and inventor Eli Whitney, who was considered to be the Father of American Technology. Connecticut is also a place to appreciate three-dimensional artwork exhibited at welcoming sculpture parks.



PERSON: Edward Tufte



Who is Edward Tufte?

Interested in seeing and thinking with effective strategies, he has been dubbed the "Galileo of Graphics" and the "Leonardo di Vinci of Data." Tufte, (pronounced TUFF-tee) is a skilled artist, author, and dynamic visionary, considered an information and graphics guru, who describes himself in more humble terms, as being "prankish."

No matter what you call him, his work helps us understand how we see data with analytical design. He is considered the father of data visualization, a field of art and science in which detecting patterns and trends is made easier by depicting them visually. Tufte also believes it is important to see with fresh eyes, cautioning us, "old words deform new seeing."





This former professor at Princeton and Yale continues to think outside the box, creating many publications, often elucidating fundamental design strategies in works filled with graphic tables, diagrams, maps, and charts. He says: "The task is not to have high-impact presentations or point, click wow, or power pitches." But rather, "the point is to explain something."

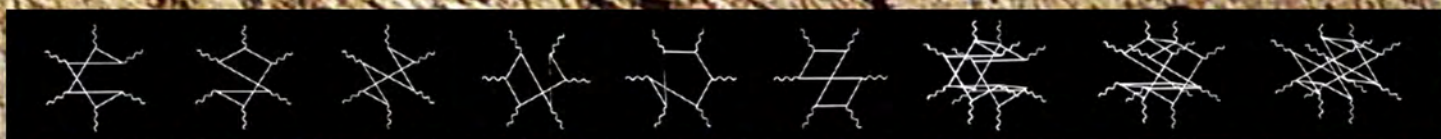
Attending his workshops or classes (way beyond pie charts) are thought to be a rite of passage for designers. Wired magazine quotes his belief: "Good design is clear thinking made visible." And his interest in moving beyond the two-dimensional world of paper and the computer screen led him to sculpture with site-specific installations, some made of scrap metal, porcelain, and steel displayed throughout his own sculpture park in Woodbury, Connecticut.



HIDDEN TREASURE: HOGPEN HILL SCULPTURE PARK Woodbury, Connecticut



Wild and whimsical, Hogpen Hill Farms Sculpture Park offers miles of walking trails amidst 100 sculptures created by Edward Tufte. This hidden treasure, celebrating its 20th anniversary, has limited viewing hours during weekends from September to early November, when guests can experience some of the 234-acres on a property of mixed terrain, which was surprisingly once home to a sprawling pig farm. Contact them in the spring to confirm hours for the 2026 season. Or visit this link: <https://www.edwardtufte.com/hogpen-hill-farms/>





Tufte invites visitors to his spacious sculpture park, Hogpen Hill (open to the public seasonally) in Woodbury, Connecticut. He suggests "our only language is vision."

It is a location featuring numerous megaliths evoking ancient, stone constructions (arches, dolmens and standing stones) while his contemporary works reimagine reassembled, industrial items amidst a surreal, transformed landscape.





It feels as though you are on the movie set of a science fiction film while strolling the property. The titles of the pieces do not disappoint: Rocket Science 3: Airstream Interplanetary Explorer (84-feet long with the airstream in mid-air)) and the stainless-steel Celestial Dancer with Calipers and her DNA, merge movement and myth with a sense of freedom. Several versions of this work can be found, sometimes displayed adjacent to a silhouetted, flat metal piece of its components in its negative form.

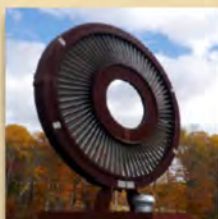


The outdoor sculptures, some of which are enormous, reside in real space and time, where "air is a material, just like stone, steel, wood, and earth." The first piece was installed in 2005 and Gufte, now an octogenarian, still creates new works, often with an otherworldly presence. Gufte suggests: "Go see with fresh eyes and an open mind requires a deliberate, self-aware act by the observer."





A small, informal, indoor gallery showcases diagrams by physicist and Nobel Prize-winner, Richard Feynman (Tufte has been interested in Feynman's work for years) along with smaller artworks and books by Tufte (ET). Signs in the gallery and around the property display messages such as "Art is Art," "Road Never Ends," "Avoid Not Writing," and "It's More Complicated Than That."



An excursion to Hogpen Hill Farms Sculpture Park, where art and nature embrace, is wholeheartedly recommended.

