Dorothy Dehner

Looking North F

NATIONAL MUSEUM of WOMEN in the ARTS
New York State of Mind

An animal? A country landscape? Visitors have interpreted this work in many ways. Dorothy Dehner (1902–1994) was actually inspired by the view from her studio at 41 Union Square in New York City.

Take a closer look

Dehner created this sculpture using wax and then had it cast in bronze. This process makes visible the touch of the sculptor, giving texture to the work. Look closely to find each smear, scratch, smudge, and splatter.

In her own words

“I wanted to work in wax because I liked the idea of it; it’s so malleable and yet it isn’t messy like clay.... It was a great revelation.”

Who knew?

Dehner was a dancer, actress, and painter before she began sculpting at age 54. However, the artist’s work in this new medium came naturally, and she continued to hone her craft for the remaining decades of her life.

Dorothy Dehner, Looking North F, 1964; Bronze; 18 x 64½ x 3 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of the artist; © Dorothy Dehner Foundation For The Visual Arts; Photograph by Lee Stalsworth