



Colorforms

Anne Truitt often referenced the natural world through color and title. In Greek mythology, a dryad is a female spirit who inhabits forests, specifically oak trees.



Summer Dryad, 1971

Take a closer look

Anne Truitt (1921–2004) achieved her signature silken surfaces by methodically straining acrylic paint, applying up to 40 layers of pigment, and sanding between coats. View her simple geometric form from different angles, observing the play of light and shadow across its glossy green planes.

Something to talk about

Truitt used sculpture to express abstract concepts like time and human existence. Her works invoke recognizable forms—crucifixes, tombstones, picket fences, solitary figures—to invite associations between the concrete and the intangible. What references does this piece bring to mind?

In her own words

“I conceive the sculptural form in space, as if the color itself came into being as a form.”

Who knew?

The artist created *Summer Dryad* at her studio in the Cleveland Park neighborhood of Washington, D.C., just a few miles northwest of the museum.

Anne Truitt, *Summer Dryad*, 1971; Acrylic on wood, 76 x 13 x 8 inches; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of the Holladay Foundation; © Anne Truitt

