# GEORGE RICKEY KINETIC SCULPTURES

SAMUEL VANHOEGAERDEN GALLERY

## GEORGE **RICKEY**

1907-2002



George and Edie Rickey, Berlin, 1978

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### KINETIC SCULPTURES

## AUGUST 6 – SEPTEMBER 18, 2016

SAMUEL VANHOEGAERDEN GALLERY – KNOKKE – 2016 Zeedijk 720 – 8300 Knokke – Belgium www.svhgallery.be – info@svhgallery.be



#### SHORT BIOGRAPHY

George Rickey was born on June 6, 1907 in South Bend, Indiana, of New England heritage. The third of six children, and only boy, he moved to Scotland in 1913 with his parents and sisters. He spent his formative years at Glenalmond, a boarding school near Perth. He always attributed his love for learning to his years there, and on graduation was accepted at Oxford where he studied Modern History at Balliol College, with frequent visits to the Ruskin School of Drawing. Following his heart, and against the advice of his father, upon graduating he spent the following year in Paris, studying at Académie L'Hote and Académie Moderne, while earning his keep as an English instructor at the Gardiner School. In Paris he met Endicott Peabody, Rector at Groton School, Massachusetts, who offered him a job as history teacher at Groton, where he remained for three years after his return to the States in 1930. He maintained an art studio in New York from 1934 to 1942, when he was drafted. In 1947 he married Edith (Edie) Leighton (died 1995); they had two sons: Stuart, b. 1953, and Philip, b. 1959. The son of a mechanical engineer and the grandson of a clockmaker, Rickey's interest in things mechanical reawakened during his wartime work in aircraft and gunnery systems research and maintenance. Although trained as a painter, he turned from painting to sculpture in 1949. His first sculpture was shown in New York in 1951 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's group show "American Sculpture 1951", and in Europe in 1957, and he is extensively represented in public and private collections in the US and abroad. In 1960 he and his family moved to an old farmhouse in East Chatham, New York, which remained his main residence and

studio. In 1966 he gave up teaching and devoted his time to sculpture. From 1968 to 1995 he kept a studio in Berlin, Germany, where he spent most winter months constructing sculpture and preparing for exhibitions in Europe. From 1985 to 1995 they also wintered and worked in his Santa Barbara, California, studio, their "Nest in the West", as Edie fondly named it. In his later years he also maintained a small studio in Santa Barbara, as well as in St. Paul, where he died on July 17, 2002.



Two Lines Vertical Stainless steel Edition n° 4/5 + 1 AP Incised with the artist's signature and dated 'Rickey 1964' (on the base) H: 81,3 cm. Executed in 1964.

#### **PROVENANCE:**

Private Collection, West Palm Beach Sotheby's, New York, May 3, 1988, lot 135 Acquired by the present owner from the above sale

#### LITERATURE:

Maxwell Davidson III, George Rickey: The Early Works, Pennsylvania, 2004, p. 196, illustrated in color







Two Lines Temporal Stainless steel Unique Incised with the artist's signature and dated 'Rickey 1967' (on the base) H: 96 cm Executed in 1967

PROVENANCE: Galerie Brockstedt, Berlin

## "I think I know what I am."

GEORGE RICKEY

Interview with Frederick S. Wright published in George Rickey: Retrospective Exhibition, 1951-1971, UCLA/Traveling exhibition, 1971-1972, 9-36.





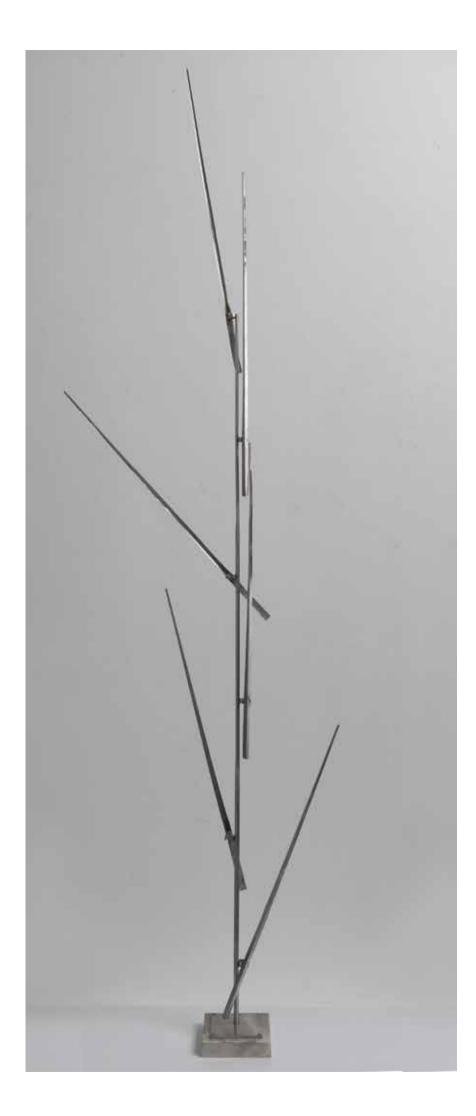
Six Lines Up Contrapuntal Stainless steel Unique Incised with the artist's signature and dated 'Rickey 67' (on the base) H: 190,5 cm Executed in 1967.

#### **PROVENANCE:**

Mr. and Mrs. H. Struve Hensel, New York, acquired from the artist Private collection, by descent from the above

"In art discovery is not enough. Pioneering in a new idiom, with new material, even with a new aesthetic (or a non-aesthetic) does not make it art, it makes it pioneering." GEORGE RICKEY

"The Morphology of Movement," in The Nature and Art of Motion, Gyorgy Kepes, ed. (NY: Braziller, 1965), 81-114.





Two Lines Oblique Down – Gyratory Stainless steel Unique Incised with the artist's signature and dated 'Rickey 1970' (on the base) H: 129,5 cm Executed in 1970.

#### **PROVENANCE:**

Staempfli Gallery, 1971 Heather James Fine Art

#### **EXHIBITIONS:**

Staempfli Gallery, New York, NY, 1971

## "Technology is not art, but every art has its technology."

GEORGE RICKEY

"Technology" in George Rickey: Skulpturen, Material, Technik, Amerika Haus, Berlin, April 17-June 9, 1979, 35-39.





#### Two Lines Oblique Down II Stainless steel Unique Incised with the artist's signature and dated 'Rickey 1970' (on the base) H: 119,4 cm Executed in 1970.

#### **PROVENANCE:**

The estate of George Rickey Marlborough Gallery, Art Basel 2014

#### **EXHIBITIONS:**

Bernice Steinbaum Gallery, NY, NY. "Elders of the Tribe" traveling show (2 year national tour), 1986-1988

Snite Museum, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN. June 29-September 14, 1997

SOMA Museum of Art/Laurence Geoffrey's Ltd., Seoul, South Korea, "8808 Outside In: Drawings and Sculpture," September 17, 2009-January 11, 2010 (Commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Seoul Olympic Games)

Marianne Friedland Gallery, Naples, FL. "The Road Not Taken: A 20th Anniversary Exhibition" (group show) with contributions from The Estate of George Rickey/Marlborough Gallery, January 2011





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Four Lines Oblique Zig-Zag Variaton III Stainless steel Edition n° 2/3 Incised with the artist's signature and dated 'Rickey 1977 - 93' (on the base) H: 119,4 cm Executed in 1977 - 93.

#### **PROVENANCE:**

Private Collection, Switzerland Gimpel and Hanover, Zurich, 1979

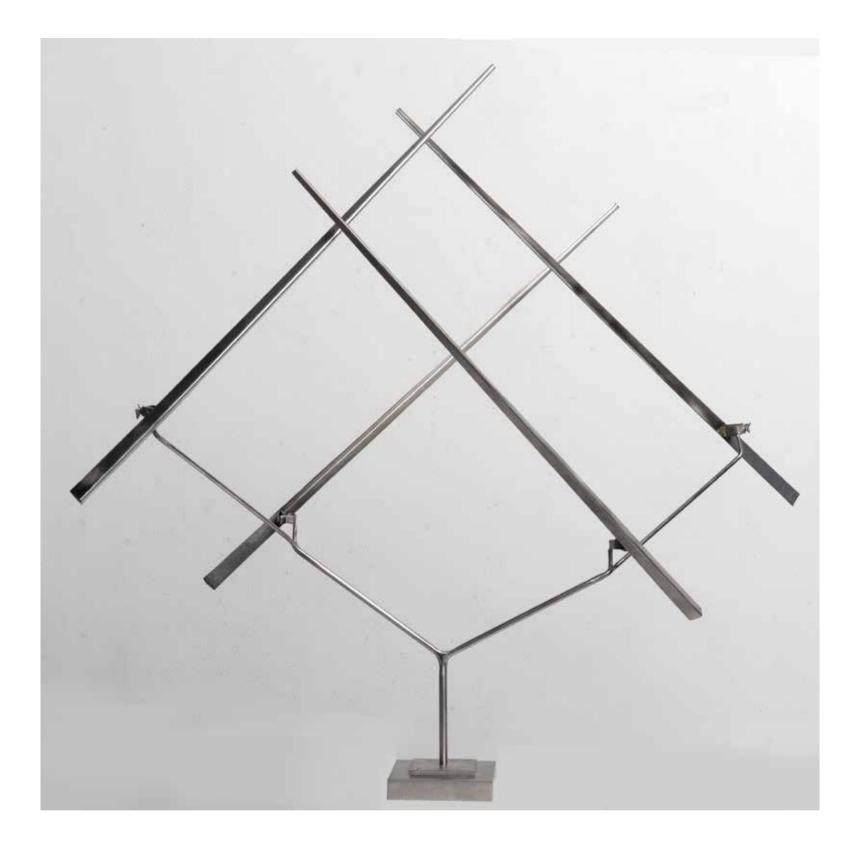
#### LITERATURE:

Maxwell Davidson III: George Rickey. The Early Works. Schiffer Publishing, Atglen, PA, 2004, colour ill. p. 227

"I want the surface responsive to light, but the grinding is random, no significance, no enhancement of the surface, no calligraphy."

GEORGE RICKEY

"Creation of a Square" in George Rickey: Skulpturen, Material, Technik, Amerika Haus, Berlin, April 17-June 9, 1979, 49-50.





Two Lines Oblique Stainless steel Edition n° 3/3 Incised with the artist's signature and dated 'Rickey 1982' (on the base) H: 232 cm Executed in 1982.

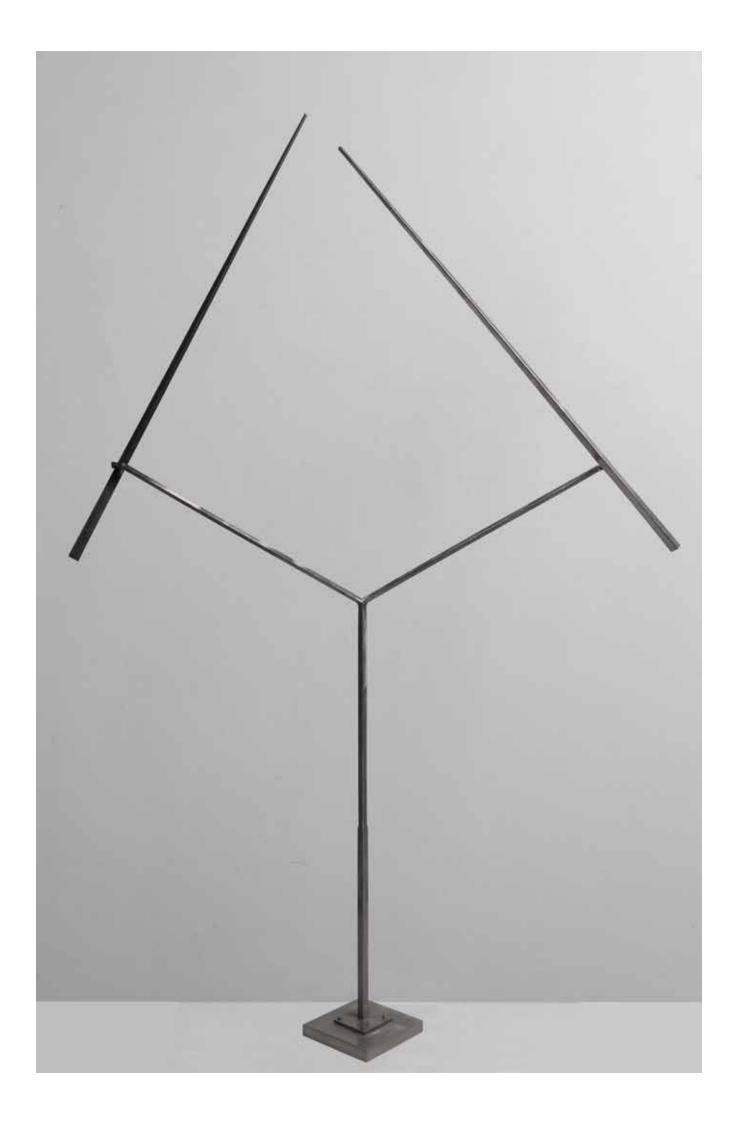
#### **PROVENANCE:**

Foster Goldstrom, Inc., Dallas, USA Thomas Segal Gallery, Boston, 1986 Sotheby's, May 2010 Collection Charly Herscovici, Brussels, Belgium

## "No one taught me to do this. I learned to do it before I was able to analyze the theory."

GEORGE RICKEY

"Gimbals" in George Rickey: Skulpturen, Material, Technik, Amerika Haus, Berlin, April 17-June 9, 1979, 46-47.





One Up One Down VII Stainless steel Edition 2/3 Incised with the artist's signature and dated 'Rickey 1988' (on the base) H: 66,5 cm. Executed in 1988.

#### **PROVENANCE:**

Private Collection, Berlin Private collection, gift from the artist, May 1988

#### **EXHIBITIONS:**

Rickey in Berlin, Berlin, Berlinische Galerie, 1992, cat. no. P 47, ill. p. 370

## "Since the design of the movement is paramount, shape, for me, should have no significance."

GEORGE RICKEY

George Rickey: Skulpturen, Material, Technik, Amerika Haus, Berlin, April 17-June 9, 1979, 35-39.





Three Lines Up Staggered Stainless steel Unique Incised with the artist's signature and dated 'Rickey 1990' (on the base) H: 119 cm Executed in 1990

#### **PROVENANCE:**

Galerie Utermann, Dortmund, 1991 Galerie Brockstedt, Berlin

#### **EXHIBITIONS:**

Galerie Utermann, Dortmund, October 26-December 22, 1990

"I had to wonder if Calder had said it all; when I found that he had not, I had to choose among the many doors I then found opened."

GEORGE RICKEY

Interview with Richard Gruen conducted in Spring 1979. Published as "The Sculpture of GR: Silent Movement, Preforming in A World of Its Own," ArtNews, April 1980, 94-98.



### GENERAL

2002	Died on July 17th
1948 - 1950	Institute of Design, Chicago, Illinois
1947	Studied etching under Mauricio Lasansky, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
1945 - 1946	Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York, New York
1941	MA, Modern History, Balliol College, Oxford, England
1929 - 1930	Académie L'hote and Académie Moderne, Paris, France
1929	BA, Modern History, Balliol College, Oxford, England
1928 - 1929	Ruskin School of Drawing, Oxford, England
1907	Born in South Bend, Indiana, of New England heritage



#### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

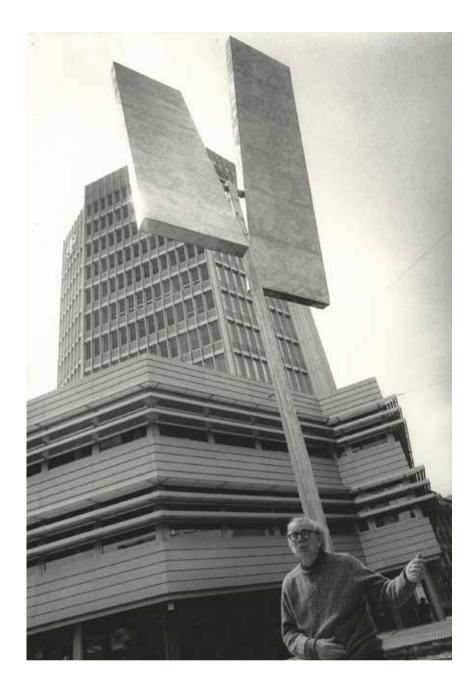
- 2011 Sculpture in the Streets, Downtown Albany Business Improvement District, Albany , New York , United States.
- 2010 George Rickey: Important Works from the Estate, Marlborough Chelsea, New York, New York, United States.
- 2009 2010 George Rickey: Arc of Development, South Bend Museum of Art, South Bend, Indiana, United States.
- A Life in Art: Works by George Rickey, Indianapolis Art Center, Indianapolis, Indiana, United States.
  George Rickey, Kinetic Sculpture: A Retrospective, The McNay, Jane and Arthur Stieren Center for
- Exhibitions, San Antonio, Texas, United States.
- 2008 George Rickey: An Evolution, Arts Council of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, Indiana, United States.
- 2008 George Rickey: Selected Works from the George Rickey Estate, Marlborough Chelsea, New York, New York, United States.
- 2007 2009 George Rickey Sculpture: A Retrospective, Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, Florida, United States. traveled to Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, Michigan, United States; McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, Texas, United States.
- 2006 Deux Américains à Paris: Sculptures de George Rickey et Kenneth Snelson, Palais Royal, Paris, France.
- 2006 George Rickey Sculptures, Maxwell Davidson Gallery, New York, New York, United States.
- 2006 George Rickey, in conjunction with the group exhibition, Momentum: Selections from the Kinetic Art Organization, Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, New Jersey, United States.
- 2004 George Rickey: Retrospective, Maxwell Davidson Gallery, New York, New York, United States.
- 2003 Kinetische Skulpturen 1956-2000, Verlag der Galerie Brockstedt, Hamburg, Germany.
- 2003 George Rickey Kinetische Skulpturen, Museum für Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg, Germany.
- 2002 Kunstpreis Finkenwerder 2002 George Rickey, Airbus, Hamburg, Germany.
- 2001 George Rickey: Defining the Fourth Dimension, Maxwell Davidson Gallery, New York, New York, United States.
- 2001 George Rickey: A Tribute, University Art Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara, California, United States..
- 2000 Installation of Annular Eclipse V, organized by the City of New York Parks & Recreation, Park Avenue Malls Planting Projects, New York, New York, United States.
- 2000 George Rickey: A Retrospective 1958-2000, Soma Gallery, La Jolla, California, United States.
- 2000 George Rickey, Gallery Kasahara, Tokyo, Japan.
- 1999 George Rickey: Maquettes and drawings related to Crucifera IV, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, Alabama, United States.
- 1998 George Rickey, Veranneman Foundation, Kruishoutem, Belgium.
- 1997 George Rickey Motion and Silence, Galerie Dr. István Schlégl, Zürich, Switzerland.
- 1997 George Rickey: Master of Kinetic Sculpture In Celebration of His 90th Year, Carl Schlosberg Fine Arts, Los Angeles, California, United States.
- 1997 Important Early Sculptures 1951-65 In Recognition of His 90th Year, Maxwell Davidson Gallery, New York, New York, United States.
- 1995 George Rickey: Recent Sculpture In grateful memory of Edie Rickey, 1924-1995 generous friend, gentle mentor, and humorous humanist, Maxwell Davidson Gallery, New York, New York, United States.
- 1994 Rickey: Sieben Kinetische Skulpturen, Galerie Utermann, and Harenberg Verlag, Dortmund, Germany.
- 1993 George Rickey in Santa Barbara, University Art Museum, University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, California, United States.
- A Dialogue in Steel and Air: George Rickey, Philharmonic Center for the Arts, Naples, Florida, United States.
  George Rickey in Berlin 1967-1992, Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, Germany.
- 1992 George Rickey: In Celebration of his 85th Year, Carl Schlosberg Fine Arts, Sherman Oaks, California, United States.
- 1991 George Rickey: Art of Movement, Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, New York, United States.
- 1990 George Rickey Kinetic Sculptures, Galerie Utermann, Dortmund, Germany.
- 1990 George Rickey Sculptures 1955-1990, Artcurial, Paris, France.
- 1989 George Rickey, Gallery Kasahara, Osaka, Japan.
- 1989 In Celebration of Three Breaking Columns at Rotterdamse, Schouwburg, Museum Boijmans-van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
- 1989 George Rickey Important Sculpture, Marianne Friedland Gallery, Toronto, Canada.
- 1989 George Rickey: Two Exhibitions, John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, California, United States.
- 1988 George Rickey Indoor/Outdoor Sculptures, Veranneman Foundation, Kruishoutem, Belgium.
- 1988 3 Skulpturen von George Rickey in Köln, Moderne Stadt, Cologne, West Germany.
- 1987 George Rickey: Projects for Public Sculpture, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York, Purchase, New York, United States.

- 1987 George Rickey zum 80. Geburtstag, Galerie Pels Leusden, West Berlin, Germany. West Berlin, Germany; traveled to Galerie Schoeller, Düsseldorf, Germany.
- 1987 Two Lines Excentric Jointed with Six Angles, Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, West Berlin, Germany.
- 1987 George Rickey, In Celebration of his Eightieth Year, Carl Schlosberg Fine Arts, Sherman Oaks, California, United States.
- 1986 George Rickey in Bryant Park, concurrent exhibitions at Maxwell Davidson Gallery and Zabriskie Gallery, New York, New York, United States.
- 1985 George Rickey in South Bend, Art Center of South Bend, Indiana University of South Bend, Saint Mary's College, and the Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, United States.
- 1984 George Rickey Recent Sculptures, Inkfish Gallery, Denver, Colorado, United States.
- 1984 Zeit und Bewegung im Werk von George Rickey, Josef Albers Museum Quadrat Bottrop, Bottrop, Germany.
- 1984 George Rickey Kinetische Freiplastiken 1972-1984, Bauhaus-Archiv, West Berlin, Germany.
- 1984 George Rickey, Galerie Schoeller, Düsseldorf, Germany.
- 1982 George Rickey: 30 Years of His Art, Maxwell Davidson Gallery, New York, New York, United States.
- 1982 George Rickey, New Orleans Plus 30, Art Gallery, Newcomb College, Tulane University, New Orleands, Louisiana, United States.
- 1982 George Rickey Kinetic Sculpture on Clydeside, Custom House Quay, St. Enoch Exhibition Centre and Carlton Place, Glasgow, Scotland. with the support of the Scottish Arts Council and Glasgow District Council; traveled to Yorkshire Sculpture Park,Yorkshire, England; Manor House, Ilkley, England.
- 1981 George Rickey, Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- 1981 George Rickey, Gimpel-Hanover+Andre Emmerich Galerien, Zürich, Switzerland.
- 1980 George Rickey at Makler Gallery, Makler Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States.
- 1979 George Rickey Retrospective Exhibition, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York, United States.
- 1979 Skulpturen Material Technik, Amerika Haus, Berlin, West Germany.
- 1978 George Rickey, Gallery Kasahara, Osaka, Japan.
- 1978 George Rickey Mobile Skulpturen, Gimpel & Hanover Galerie, Zürich, Switzerland.
- 1977 George Rickey, Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, New York, United States.
- 1977 George Rickey Kinetische Skulpturen, Städtische Galerie im Städelschen Kunstinstitut, Frankfurt, West Germany.
- 1976 George Rickey Kinetische Objekte Material und Technik, Kunsthalle der Stadt, Bielefeld, West Germany.
- 1975 George Rickey, Fordham University Plaza at Lincoln Center and Staempfli Gallery, New York, New York,
- United States.
- 1974 George Rickey, Galerie Espace NV, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
- 1974 Sculpture of George Rickey, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania, United States.
- 1973 George Rickey, Galerie Buchholz, Munich, Germany.
- 1973 George Rickey, Nationalgalerie, West Berlin, Germany.
- 1973 George Rickey, Kestner-Gesellschaft, Hannover, Germany.
- 1972 Sculpture by George Rickey, shown in conjuction with the exhibition, Constructivist Tendencies, Museum of Art, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, United States.
- 1971 George Rickey Retrospective Exhibition 1951-71, UCLA Art Council and UCLA Art Galleries, Los Angeles, California, United States. (traveling exhibition)
- 1970 Recent Kinetic Sculpture by George Rickey, Whatcom Museum of History and Art, Bellingham, Washington, United States.
- 1969 George Rickey, Haus am Waldsee, West Berlin, Germany.
- 1968 Mack Rickey, Halfmannshof, Gelsenkirchen, Germany.
- 1967 Recent Kinectic Sculpture, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States.
- 1966 George Rickey: Sixteen Years of Kinetic Sculpture, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., United States.
- 1964 George Rickey: Kinetic Sculptures, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, Massachusetts, United States.
- 1963 George Rickey: Kinetic Sculpture, Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago, Illinois, United States.
- 1962 George Rickey, Düsseldorf Kunsthalle, Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany.
- 1961 George Rickey: Kinetic Sculpture, Kraushaar Gallery, New York, New York, United States.
- 1960 Kinetic Sculpture: George Rickey, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California, United States.
- 1956 Kinetic Sculpture and Machines, Isaac Delgado Museum of Art, New Orleans, Louisiana, United States.
- 1955 George Rickey: Machines Kinetic Sculptures Mobiles, Kraushaar Galleries, New York, New York, United States.
- 1953 Mobile Sculpture, John Herron Art Museum, Indianapolis, Indiana, United States.
- 1935 Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado, United States.
- 1933 Caz-Delbo Gallery, New York, New York, United States.

#### **PUBLIC COLLECTIONS**

Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York, United States Gibbs Farm, Kaipara, New Zealand Sondra & Marvin Smalley Family Sculpture Garden at American Jewish University, Los Angeles, California, United States The Sondra and Marvin Smalley Family Sculpture Garden, Bel-Air, California, United States Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA, United States Rückversicherungs-Gesellschaft, Munich, Germany Williams College Museum, Williamstown, Massachusetts, United States Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York, United States Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States The Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio, United States Tel Aviv Museum, Tel Aviv, Israel Tate Gallery, London, England Snite Museum, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, United States Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C., United States Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton, Massachusetts, United States Shizuoka Museum, Shizuoka, Japan Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, California, United States San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, California, United States Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, Connecticut, United States Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, Otterlo, The Netherlands Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York, United States Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, United States Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, Arizona, United States Olympiad of Art, Olympic Center, Seoul, South Korea Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, California, United States The Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey, United States New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, Louisiana, United States Neues Medizinsches Institut, Heidelberg, Germany, United States Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, State University of New York, Purchase, New York, United States Neubau des Physikzentrums, Kiel, Germany Neu Perlach, Munich, Germany The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri, United States National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., United States The Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York, United States Museum of Fine Arts, Dallas, Texas, United States The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California, United States Museum of Art, Long Beach, California, United States Museum of Art, Indianapolis, Indiana, United States Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, Indiana, United States Museum of Art, Columbus, Ohio, United States Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts, United States Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam, The Netherlands Musée de Grenoble, Grenoble, France Moderne Galerie (Joseph Albers Museum), Quadrat-Bottrop, Bottrop, Germany The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York, United States Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, United States Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, Michigan, United States The Marion Koogler McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, Texas, United States Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California, United States Laumeier Sculpture Park, St. Louis, Missouri, United States Landtag Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, Germany Kunsthalle der Stadt, Berlin, Germany Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany Kansai University, Osaka, Japan

Hyogo Prefectural Museum, Kobe, Japan Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., United States The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia, United States Henkel GmbH, Düsseldorf, Germany Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan Hakone Open-Air Museum, Tokyo, Japan Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York, United States The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, California, United States DeCordova Museum and Sculpture Park, Lincoln, Massachusetts, United States Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., United States City Art Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts, Stanford, California, United States Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, Germany Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen, Munich, Germany Bayerische Hypotheken-und Vechsel-Bank, AG, Munich, Germany Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland, United States Am Justizzentrum, Cologne, Germany Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York, United States Albertina Museum, Vienna, Austria

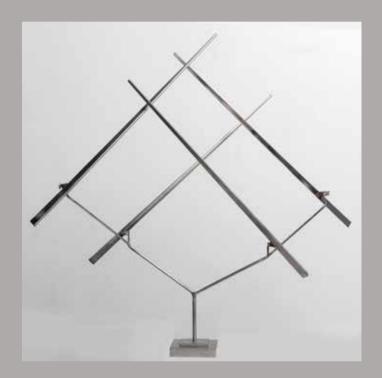


## SAMUEL VANHOEGAERDEN GALLERY-KNOKKE-2016

Zeedijk 720 – 8300 Knokke – Belgium www.svhgallery.be – info@svhgallery.be Tel: + 32(0)477 51 09 89 Fax: +32(0)15 340 541

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Cover:	Three Lines Up Staggered, Stainless steel, Unique

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