




Sculpture Guide

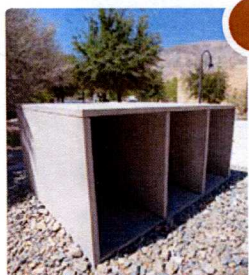
Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert

The Galen and the Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden

The Galen and the Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden at the Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert feature significant sculptures surrounded by four acres of beautifully sculpted, rolling terrain. Set in a lushly landscaped desert oasis replete with water features, native plants, and winding walkways dotted with natural rock benches, the sculpture garden houses the art of modern masters, including works by Donald Judd, Betty Gold, Yehiel Shemi, Barry Flanagan, Fletcher Benton, Jesús Bautista Moroles, Dan Namingha, Gio Pomodoro, and Dave McGary. The sculpture garden is open year round with no admission fee.


PALM SPRINGS
ART MUSEUM
IN PALM DESERT
The Galen and the Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden

72-567 Highway 111, Palm Desert, CA 92260 | 760-346-5600 | psmuseum.org/palm-desert



1

Donald Judd | American, 1928-1994

Untitled, 1988-91—concrete

Gift of Bettina and Donald Bryant

The geometric vocabulary and clarity of form in this sculpture reflect Donald Judd's Minimalist mastery. Made in the shape of a massive box with walls dividing its interior space, this topographic object interacts with its environment. The play of light upon the surface creates evolving patterns and illusions. Shadows, for example, can make the open end of a box appear to be completely solid and closed. A particularly evocative installation of sculptures from this series occupies a large field in Marfa, Texas, where the box-like forms march across the landscape, akin to architectural giants.



2

Yehiel Shemi | Israeli, 1922-2003

Morning, 1975-76—enamel on steel

Purchase with funds provided by Lionel R. Bauman in memory of Sylvia D. Bauman

Shemi was known for his abstract metal sculptures and was the first Israeli artist to have his work purchased by the Museum of Modern Art, New York. Having worked in construction, the artist's early sculptures were made from the steel found in sunken ships in Haifa's harbors. He continued to weld mass-produced iron and scrap metal to create forms of irregular geometry, bold lines, and colorful gestures that confidently extend into space. A contemporary of David Smith, Shemi's monumental work has been described as three-dimensional Constructivist calligraphy.



3

Felipe Castañeda | Mexican, born 1933

Seated Thinking Woman, 1979—bronze

Gift of the California Community Foundation

Castañeda's sculptures are informed by the harmonious musculature of modern Mexican masterworks and the classical elegance of European modernism. His representations of indigenous Mexican women are strong and contemplative, whether they stand, recline, or kneel. The body is always smooth and perfectly proportioned, its sinuous curves creating beautiful shadows that heighten the figure's pensive posture.

4

Jesús Bautista Moroles | American, born 1950*Lapstrake*, 1986—granite

Gift of Steve Chase

Moroles is known for his monumental granite sculptures whose rough textures and elegant forms express man's interaction with nature. The artist's uncle, a master stonemason, taught Moroles how to work with stone at an early age during summers in Mexico. After college he absorbed classical European sculpture traditions while working at a foundry in Italy. The effects of these influences can be seen in *Lapstrake*. The term refers to a construction method in which planks overlap, but it might also implicitly refer to the aesthetic styles of Precolumbian civilizations as seen in stepped pyramids, interlocking baskets, and weaving.

5

Peter Reginato | American, born 1945*Midnight and Morning Rain...waiting for Miro*, 1984—painted steel

Gift of Steve Chase

Reginato's jubilantly colorful sculptures recall the lyricism of early twentieth-century modernism and the cartoon-like forms of the pop era. Yet this sculpture is also representative of the expressive, gestural turn in American painting and sculpture of the 1980s. Originally trained as a painter, the artist's sculptures have the spirit of riotous brushstrokes. The color handling reflects Reginato's creative development within New York City's artistic loft culture of the 1970s, while the imperfect surfaces parallel the city's grittiness.

6

Dave McGary | American, born 1958*Walks Among the Stars*, 2006—bronze with patina and paint

Gift of Lisa and Jack McLaine

Dave McGary is known for his realistic renditions of Native Americans, and follows a long portrait tradition in American art. This sculpture depicts a late nineteenth-century Lakota woman displaying an heirloom star quilt. As the Indian Wars ended, Northern Plains tribes faced relocation to reservations, and Sioux women made patchwork quilts to replace traditional buffalo robes. Today, the star quilt is a symbol of prestige, sentiment, belonging, and status within Lakota culture and remains an integral part of many tribal ceremonies.

7

Dan Namingha | American, Tewa-Hopi, born 1950*Vertical Passage*, 1997—bronze with patina

Gift of Loren G. Lipson, M.D.

A prominent Native American painter and sculptor, Namingha is known for his use of Hopi symbolism. This totemic panel is composed of four sections, each an abstracted kachina face shaped by positive and negative geometric spaces. Kachinas are figures of spiritual power, and the number four represents Hopi beliefs about the origins of the world, the fourth world being the current period. The open space that runs through the center is both a rift and a passageway from past to present, ending with vertical lines representing rain falling to the earth.

8

Betty Gold | American, born 1935*MA IV*, 2005—enamel on steel

Gift of Mr. and Mrs. David Chatkin

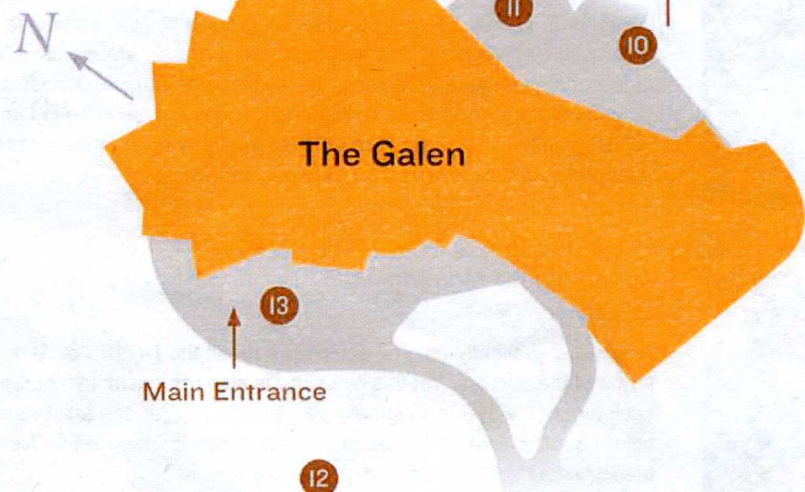
Gold's oversized sculptures are scaled to the body, and the artist has remained committed to geometric balance throughout her oeuvre. This sculpture was produced after Gold's 2005 retrospective exhibition in Mallorca. The non-representational form's curving shapes point to the artist's roots in the symbol-free Concrete art of the 1930s, and produce a dynamic play between positive and negative space. The vibrant yellow color conveys a sense of joy, while the strongly angled edges of the rolled steel jut proudly into the surrounding environment.

9

Fletcher Benton | American, born 1931*Steel Watercolor with Balls*, 2000—painted steel

Gift of Edith and George Nadler

Benton's interest in the illusory qualities of abstract shapes began with his explorations in kinetic sculpture. The static steel works of later years, such as this sculpture, retain this energy of movement and hint at the influence of early modern Constructivist abstraction on the artist. Composed of relatively thin bars of welded steel, the towering sculpture maintains a tenuous balance between scale and volume. The curved and bulbous forms at top offset the sculpture's vertical rigidity. Its monumental size is striking in its delicacy and precariously graceful in its construction, and seems to mark a three-dimensional crimson brushstroke in the sky.



10

Kenneth Capps | American, born 1939*Rio Hondo*, 1973—steel

Loan from Royale Projects, Indian Wells

Capps emerged from the burgeoning art scene in Southern California in the 1970s with an interest in industrial materials and strong minimalist tendencies. Capps began his career making welded steel sculptures such as *Rio Hondo*. The juxtaposition of painted and unfinished elements parallels the architectural quality of balance between geometric forms that the artist seeks in every work.

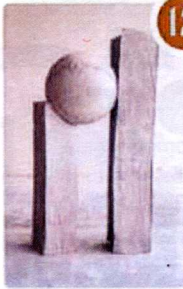


11

Barry Flanagan | Welsh, 1941-2009*Acrobats*, 1988—bronze

Gift of Donna and Cargill MacMillan, Jr.

Flanagan's work has been characterized by an inventiveness that led the artist to challenge the nature and material of form and its medium. His work contains great energy, a boundless sense of imagination, and a playful humor. Flanagan is best known for his dynamic and often monumental bronze hares, which he began casting in 1979. These figures are animated by gestures more human than animal, subtly appropriating such spirited activities as dancing, prancing, and even boxing. They possess an attitude viewers often find psychological and simply joyous.



12

Dennis Gallagher | American, 1952-2009*Ball Suspended*, 1993—ceramic

Gift of the Dennis Gallagher Estate

Gallagher's rough-edged sculpture seems to draw from the concrete, gray-colored aesthetics of American highways. Yet the balanced sphere atop the vertical form has a buoyant quality, akin to a cloud in the sky. This lightness may be explained by the sculpture's medium, ceramic, which is a rather unusual material for a large non-figurative work. Gallagher's abstract sculptures follow a tradition set by California artists such as Peter Voulkos and Viola Frey who pushed the boundaries of clay as a fine art medium.



13

Gio Pomodoro | Italian, 1930-2002*The Crowd*, 1963-64—bronze

Gift of the Estate of Lionel R. Bauman

A prominent Italian sculptor and goldsmith, Pomodoro created dynamic, abstract works in both large and small scale—from public art sculptures to jewelry. All of his works capture the tension of surfaces, and make visible the energies of space, as in *The Crowd*. The undulating bronze surface can be viewed as a mass of abstract figures, but it also denotes the active flow of air and movement that marks the irregular pathways of moving bodies in space.