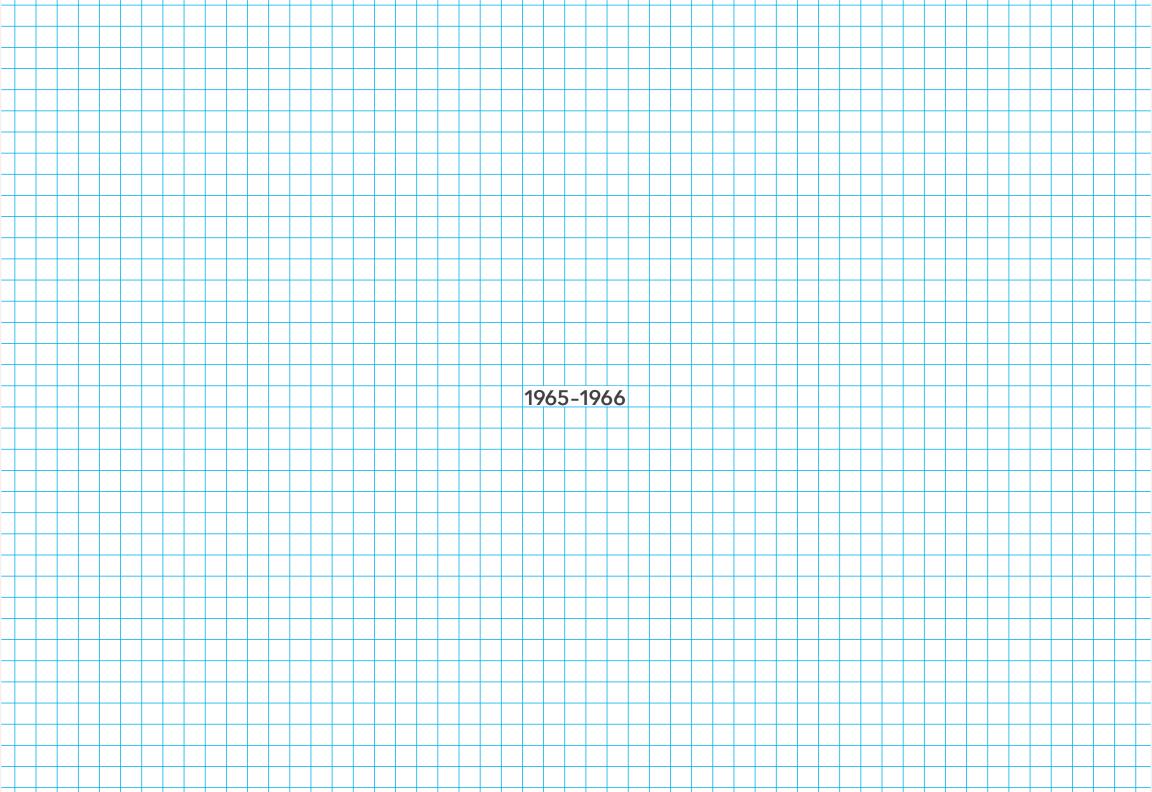
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VASA: Old Love Never Rusts

A Look Back at My Unmade Sculptures from the 60s

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Los Angeles, California 90018
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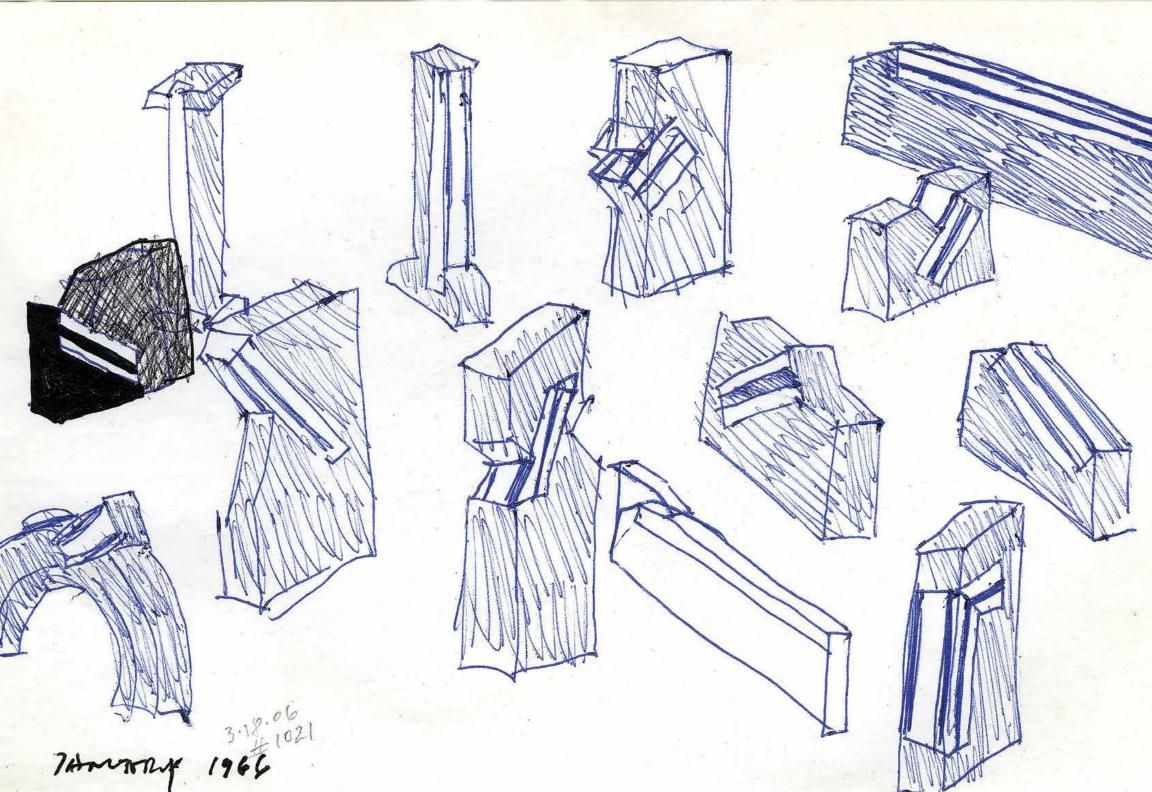
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The early sixties in California was a period in which artists reacted to Abstract Expressionism by taking new directions with their art. Looking back, I feel very fortunate that I was part of that period, perhaps my favorite time as an artist.



I arrived in Los Angeles in 1960, and initially my work was influenced by California hard-edge painters. In early 1965, I started a new approach by applying abstract concepts from my paintings to three-dimensional geometric objects. This created the basis for a true new direction in my art.

In January, 1966, I had my first show of three-dimensional objects at the Los Angeles Feigen-Palmer gallery. This was followed by a second show in 1967 at the Herbert Palmer gallery, an exhibit of painted constructions attached to the wall. That same year, my work was included in "American Sculptures of the Sixties", a major show at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. A comprehensive list of shows from 1966 to 1967 are listed in 'Selected Group Shows' on page 133.

LEFT: Original Drawings for Sculptures, Sketchbook 2 January, 1966

1965

Vasa
North Kingsley Dr., Hollywood, California
1965
Painted construction
Lacquer on wood
PHOTOS: MILOJKO LAZOVICH



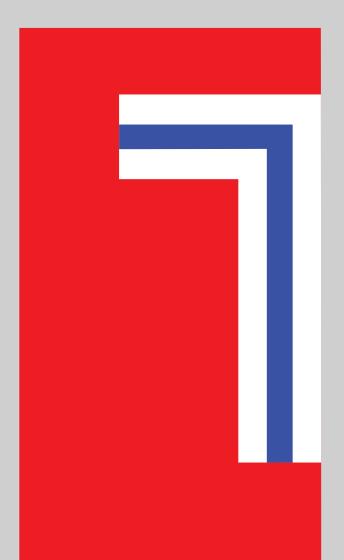
My paintings become sculptures.

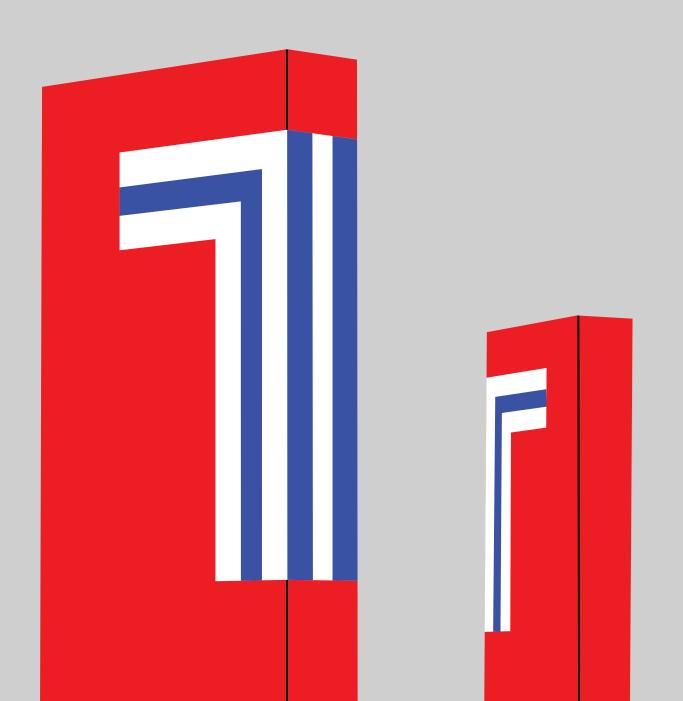
In 2006, some of my sketches of unmade sculptures were translated into computer generated 3D models. These models were used as a source for the illustrations in this book.

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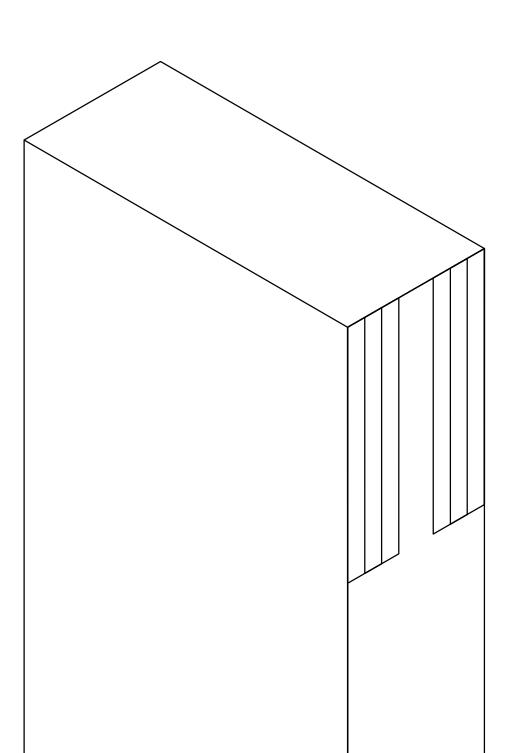


DETAIL: Original Sketch of #1007 1965

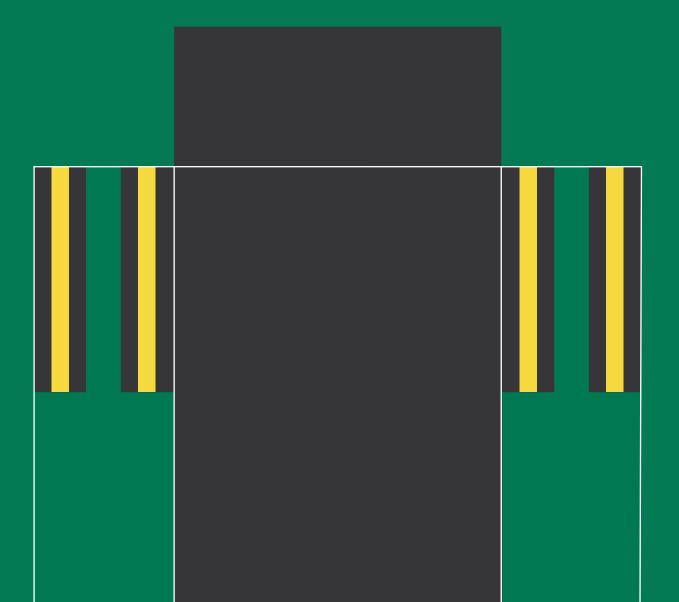
3 Views of Painted Sculpture #1007 24 x 8 x 50 in. 1965







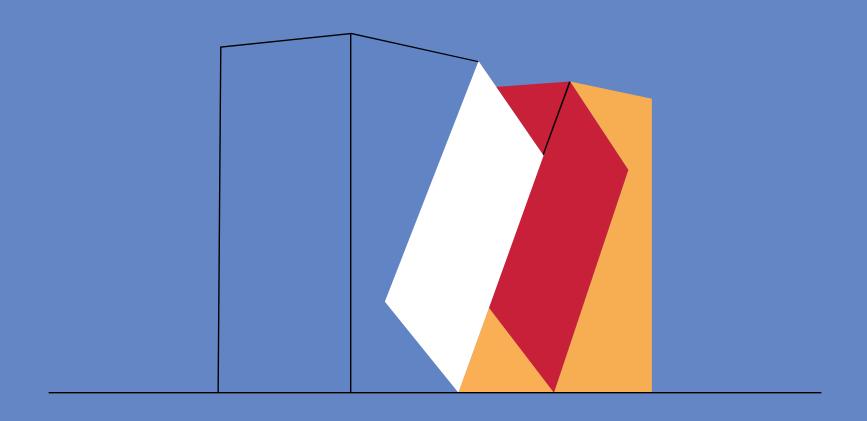
Line Drawing &
Painted Surfaces #1015
37 x 15.6 x 48 in.
1965



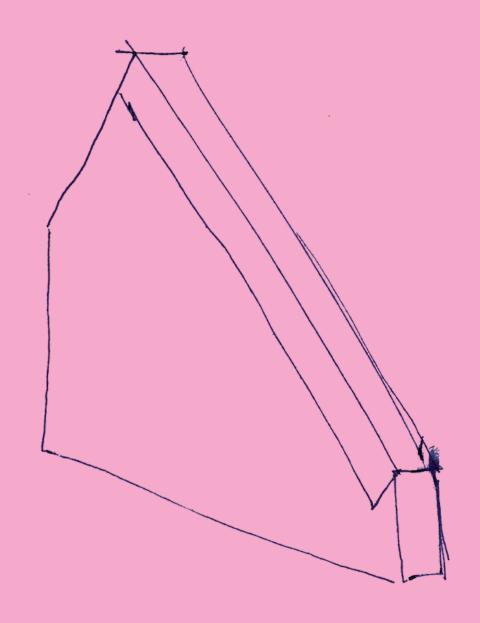








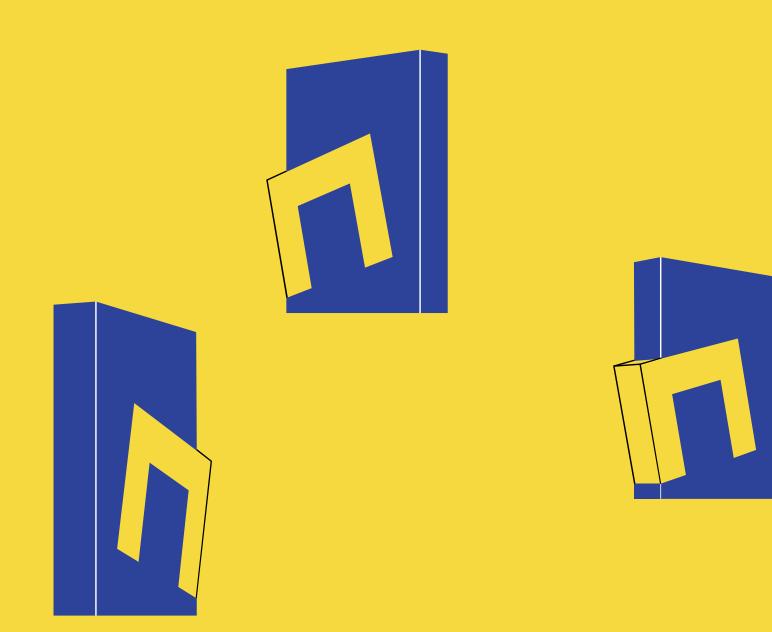
Painted Sculpture #0033 36 x 9 x 20 in. 1966



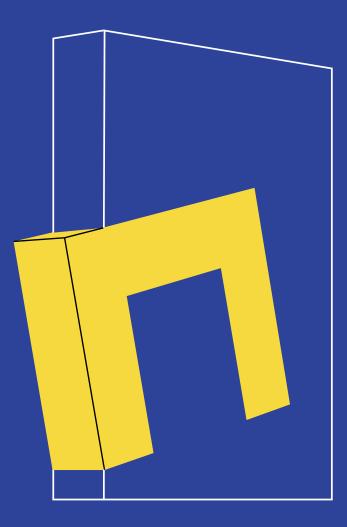
Original Sketch, Sketchbook 2 8.5 x 11 in. 1966



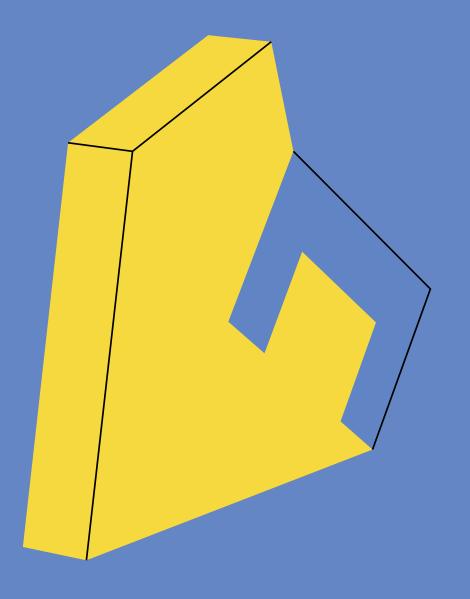




4 Views of Painted Sculpture #0036 42 x 9.5 x 60 in. 1965

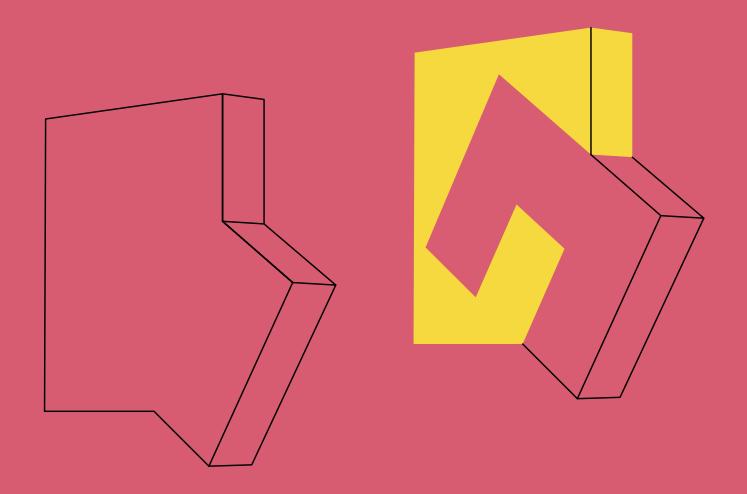






Painted Sculpture #003-36 x 5.5 x 33 in. 1965

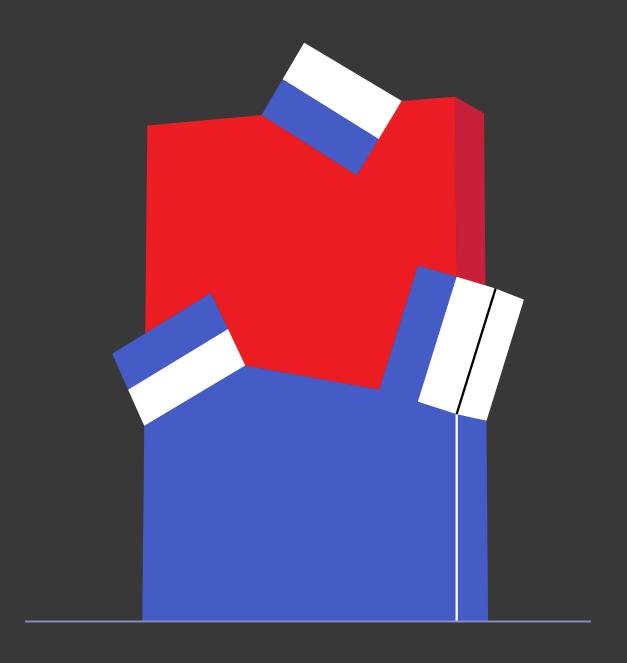
RIGHT: Sculpture #0035 before and after painting 36 x 8 x 32 in. 1965



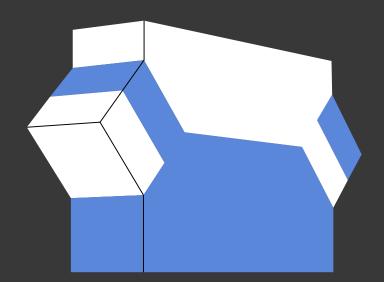


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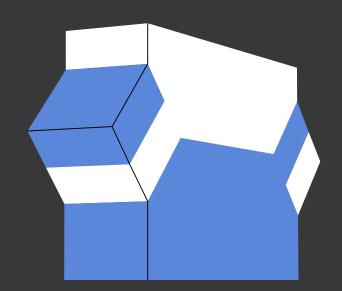


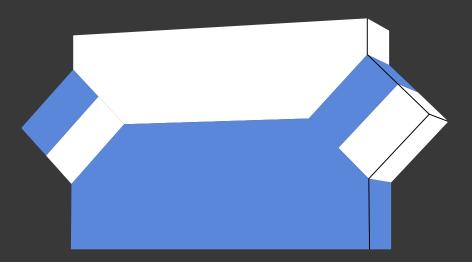
Painted Sculpture #0022 54 x 5 x 60 in. 1966

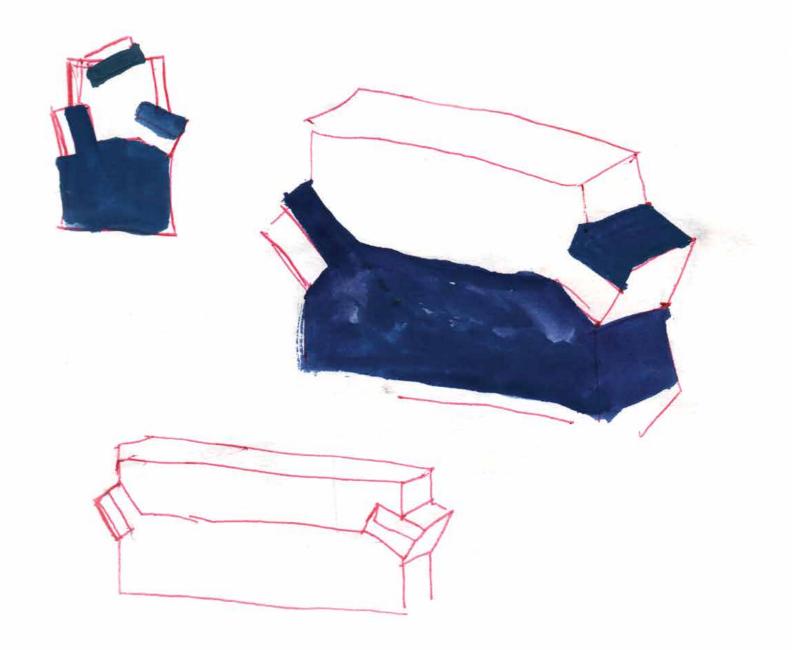


3 Views of Sculpture #0018 71 x 14 x 36 in. 1965

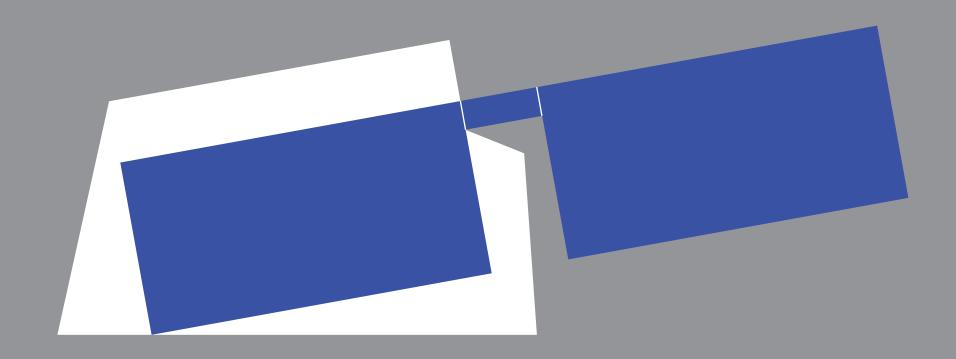
RIGHT: Original Sketch #0018 8.5 x 11 in. 1965



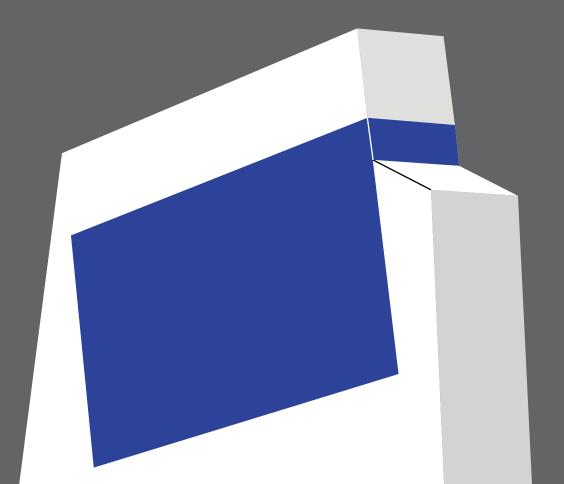




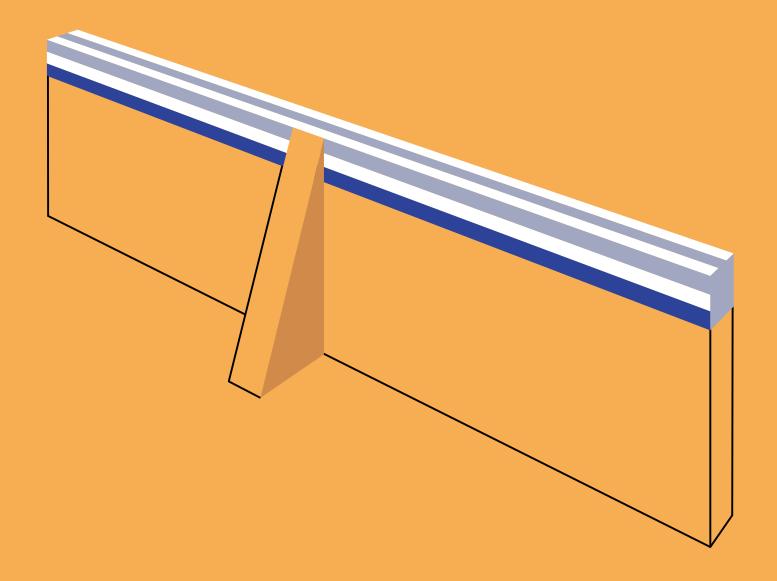


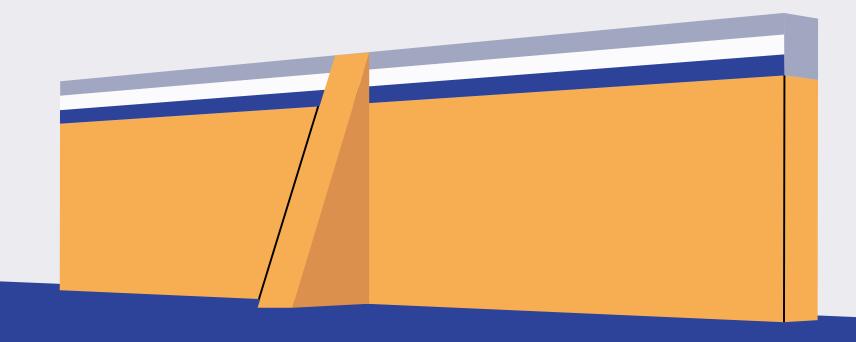


Flattened Painted Surface & Painted Sculpture #0020 48 x 7.5 x 31 in. 1965



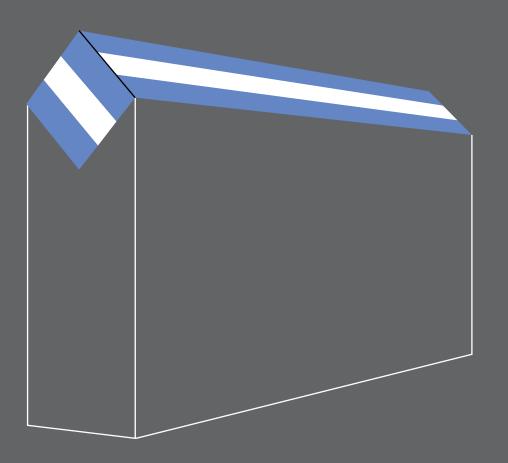






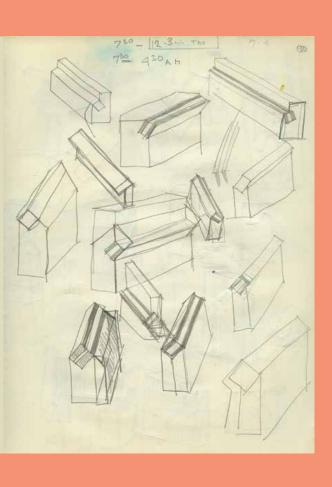
2 views of Painted Sculpture #0016 96 x 4.5 x 22.5 in. 1966

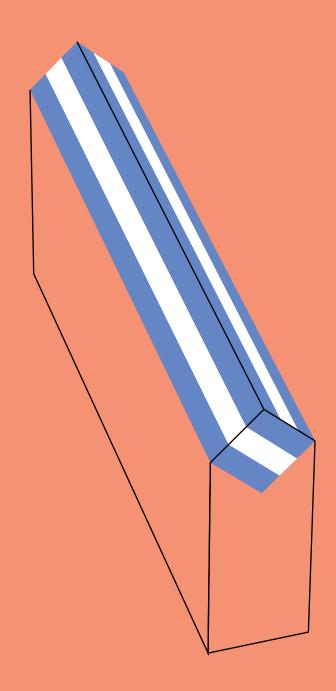




2 views of Painted Sculpture #1062 84 X 15 X 40 in. 1965

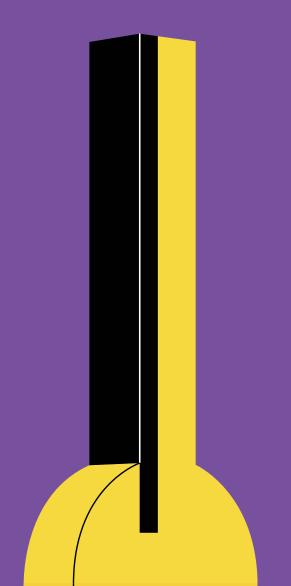
RIGHT: Original Sketches 8.5 x 11 in. 1965







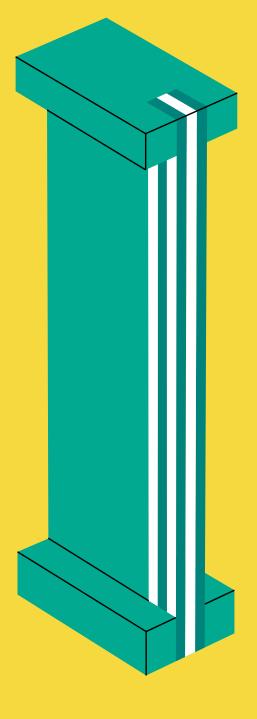




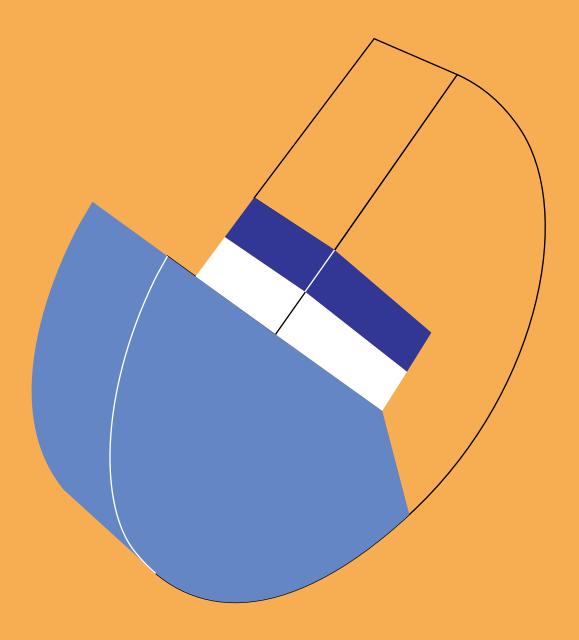
LEFT: Painted Sculpture #0027 30 x 7 x 72 in. 1965

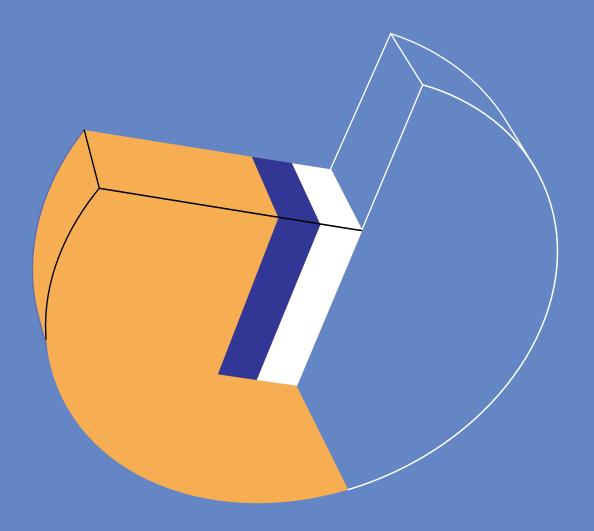
2 Views of Painted Sculpture #1023 9 x 15 x 48 in. 1965



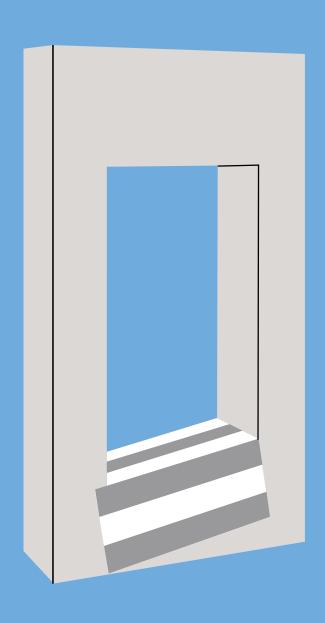






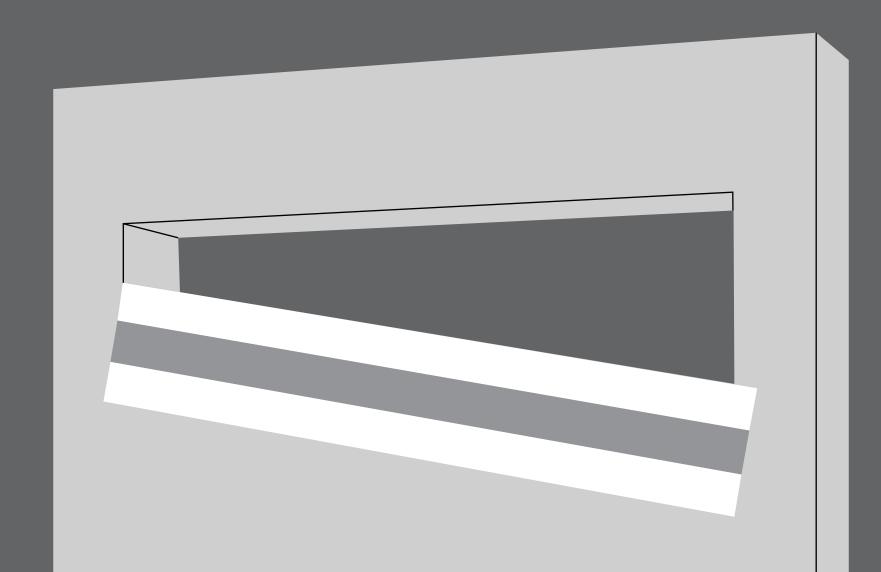






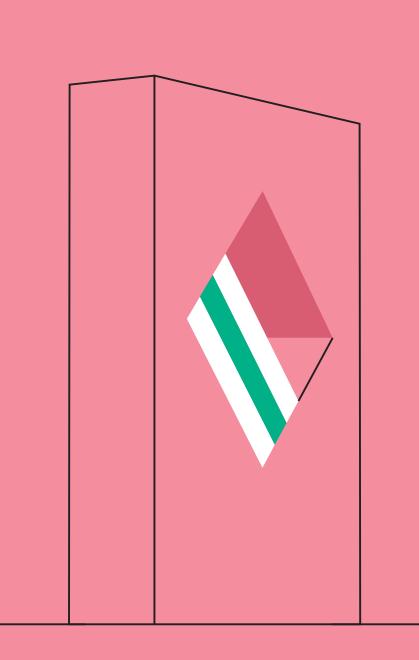
Painted Sculpture #0003 52 x 15.5 x 84 in. 1965

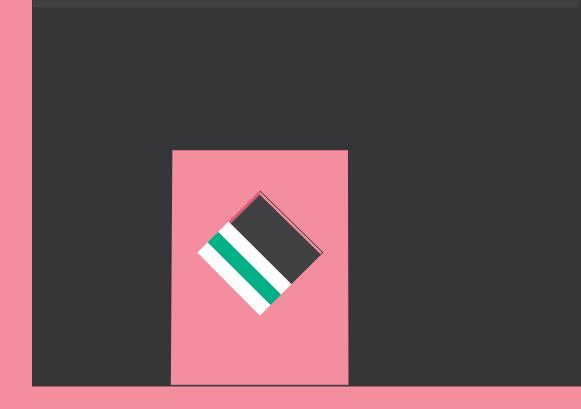
RIGHT: Painted Sculpture #0007 76 x 12 x 48 in. 1965





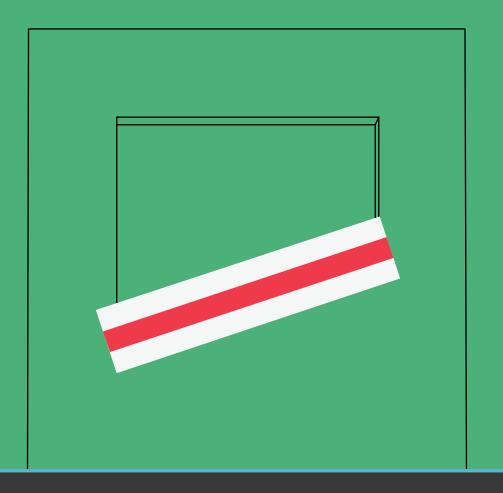


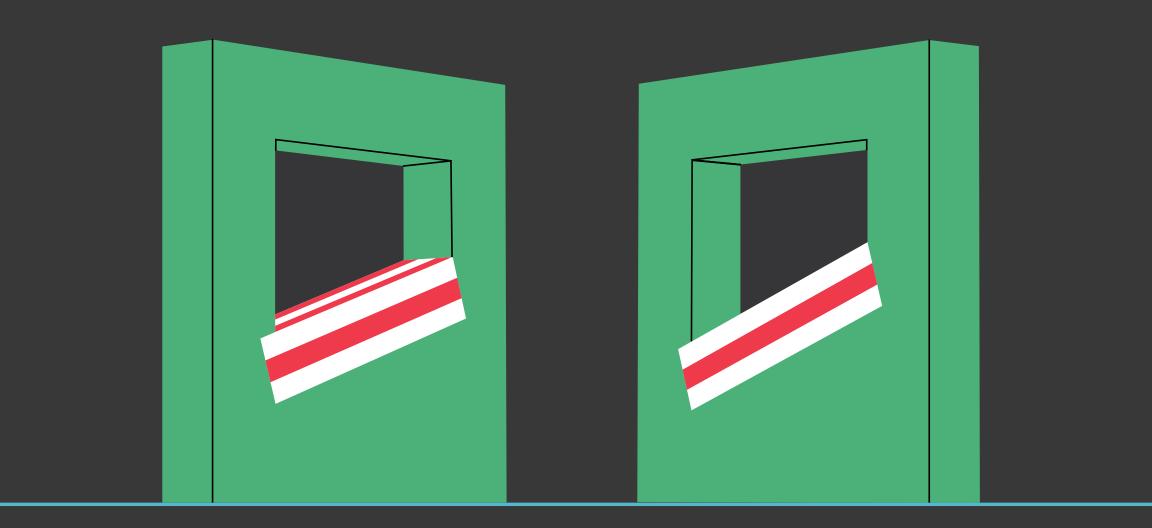




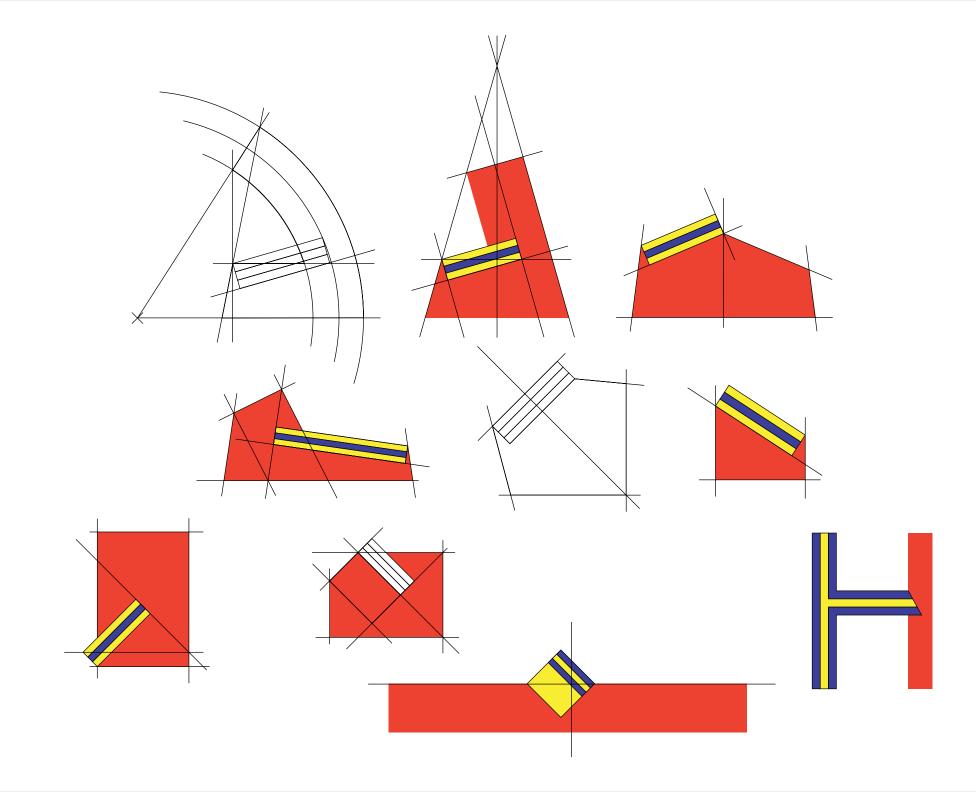
3 Views of Painted Sculpture #0010 40.5 x 9.75 x 54 in. 1965



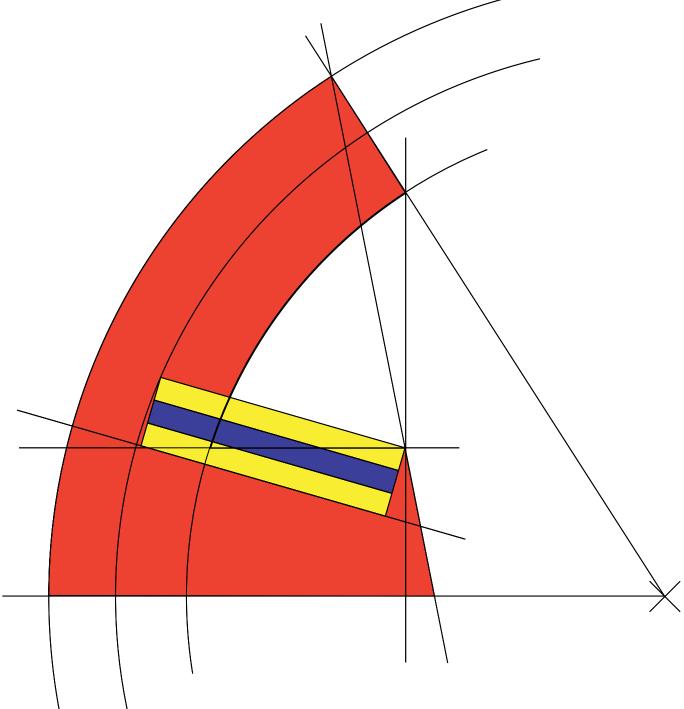










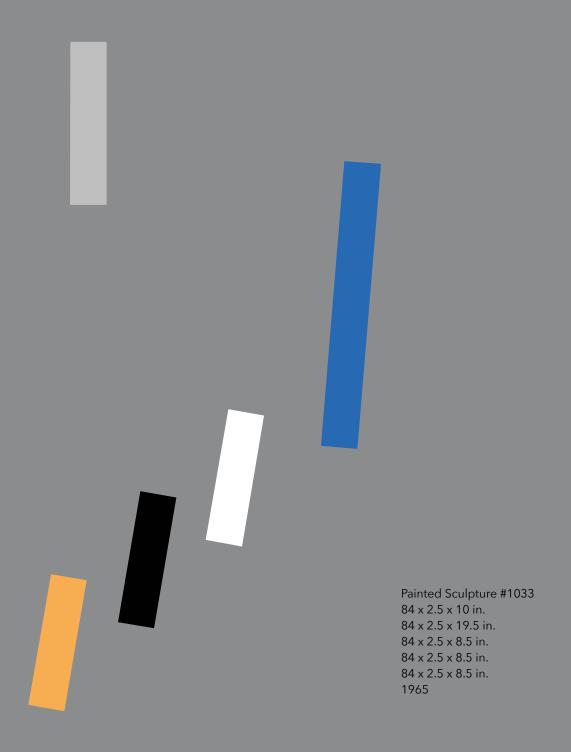


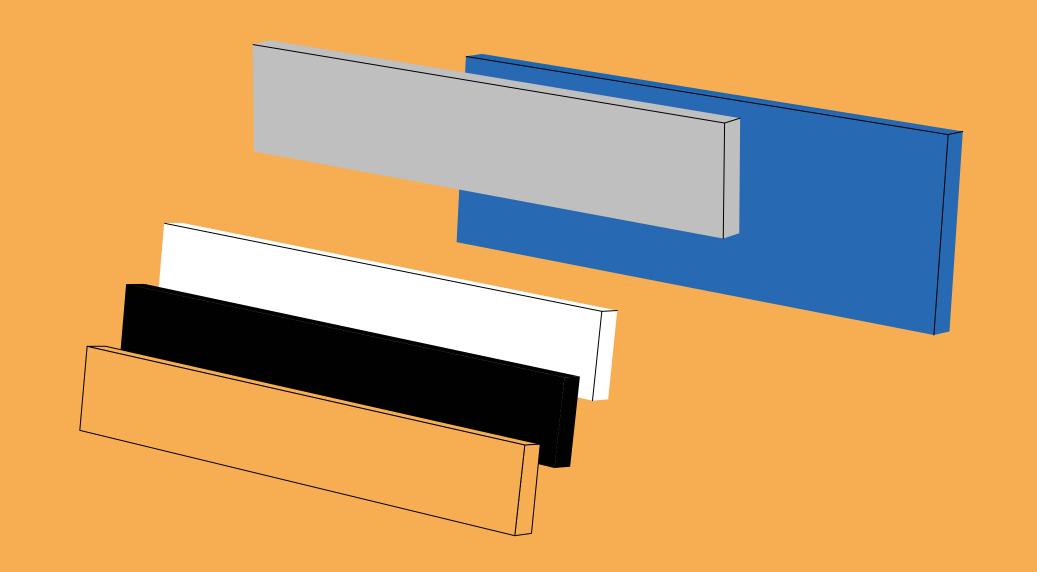
Sculpture #1052 and Technical Drawings 1965

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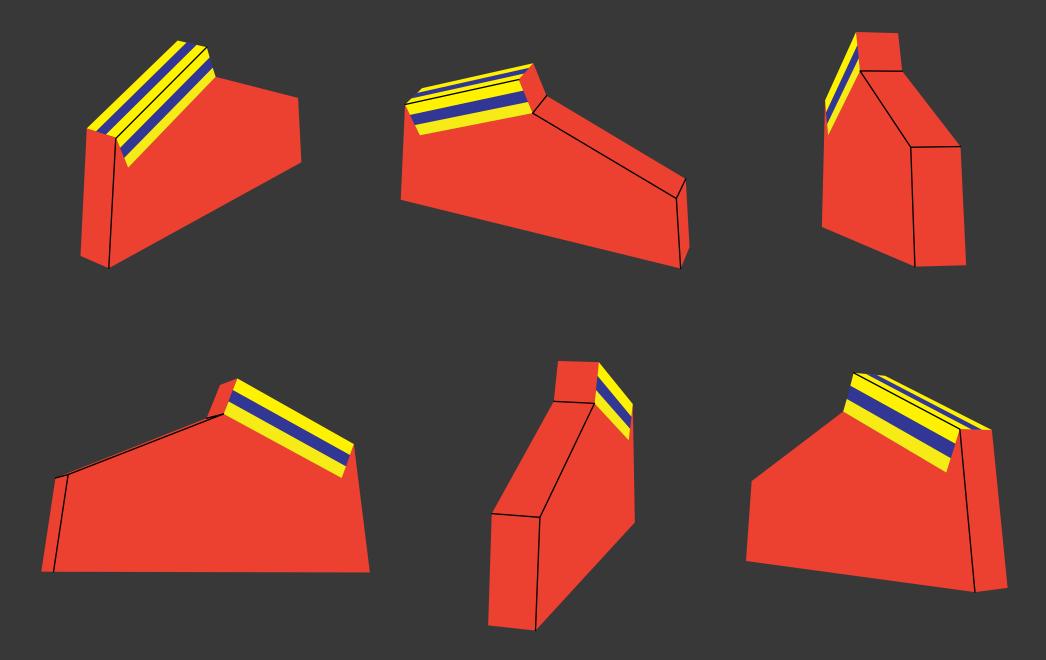


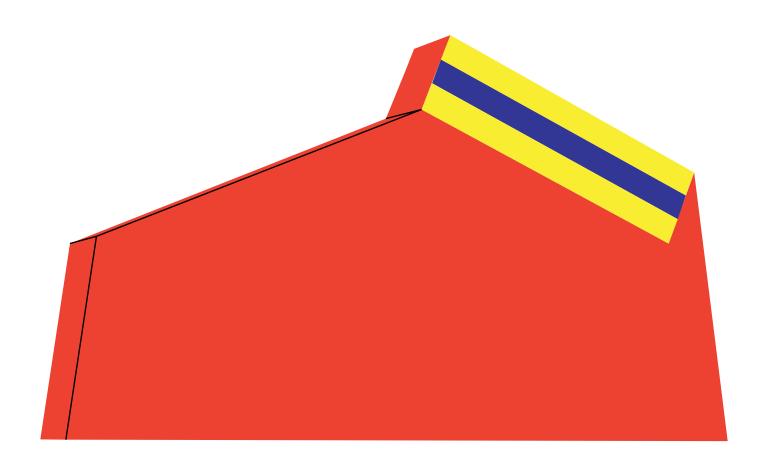




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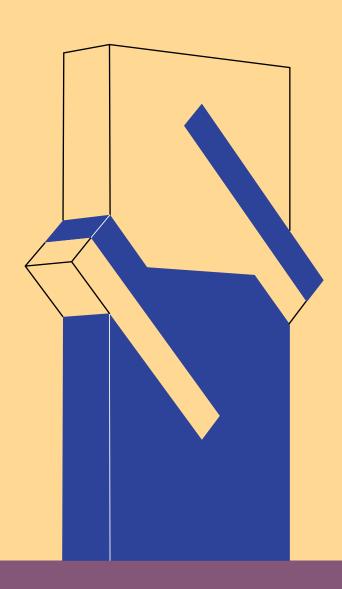


Painted Sculpture #1054 50 x 6 x 28 in. 1965

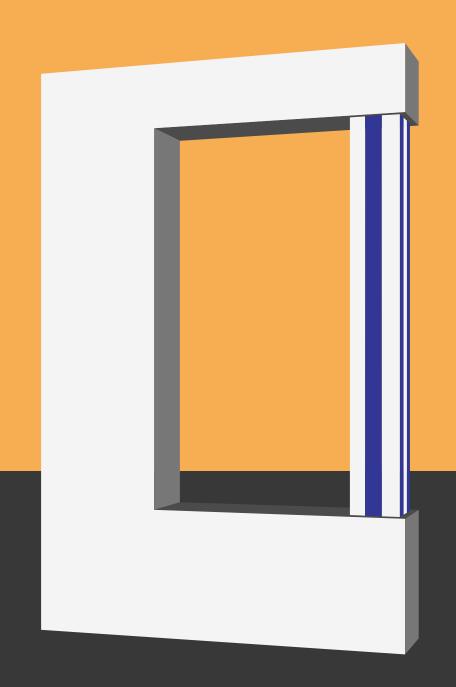
LEFT: 6 Views of Painted Sculpture #1054 1965

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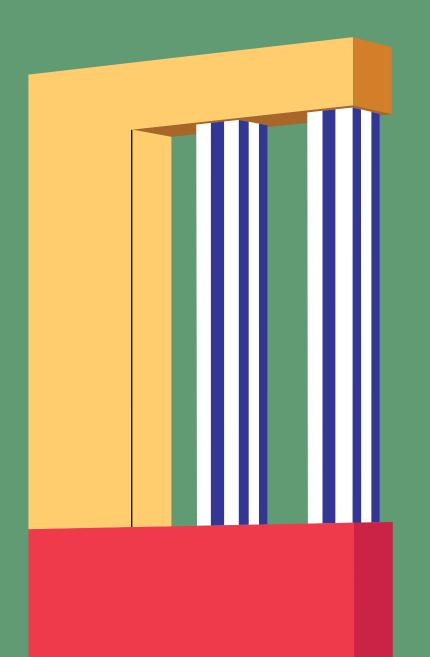






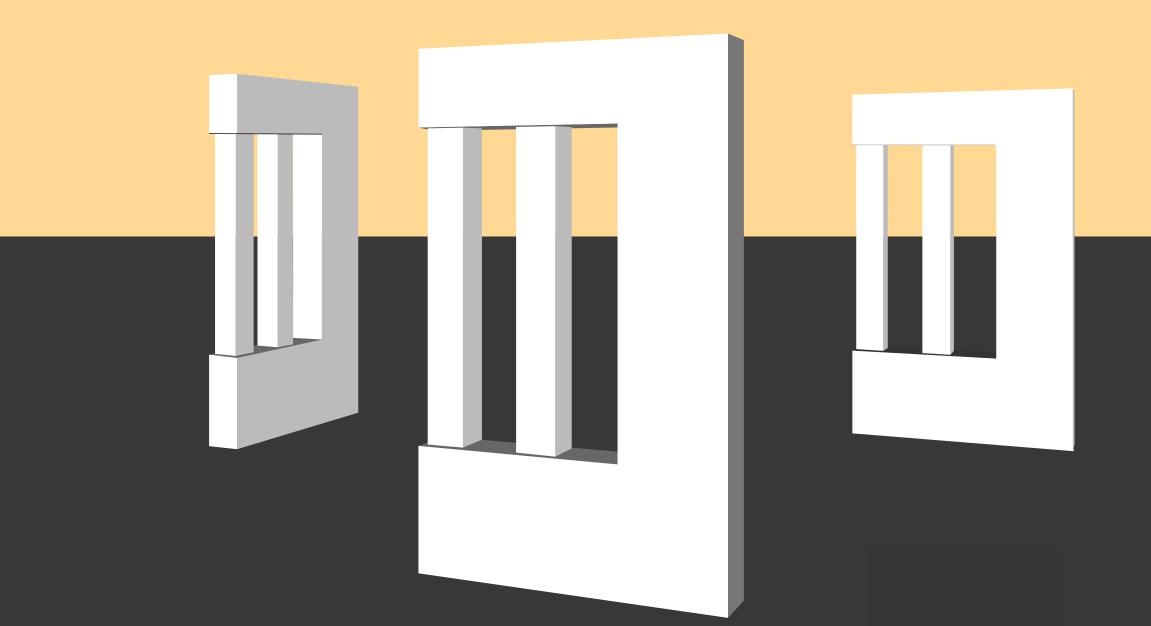
Painted Sculpture #1026 63 x 10.5 x 96 in. 1965





Painted Sculpture #1027 63 x 10.5 x 96 in. 1965

RIGHT: 3 Views of Painted Sculpture #1027 63 x 10.5 x 96 in. 1965

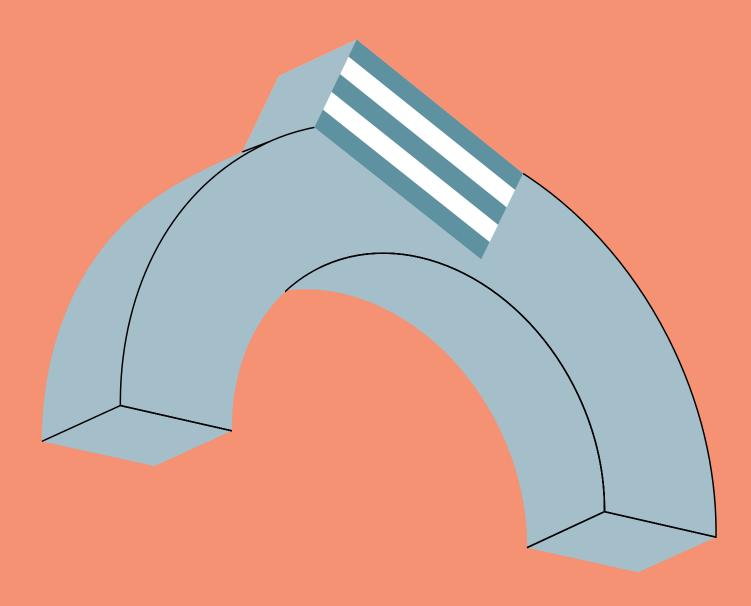




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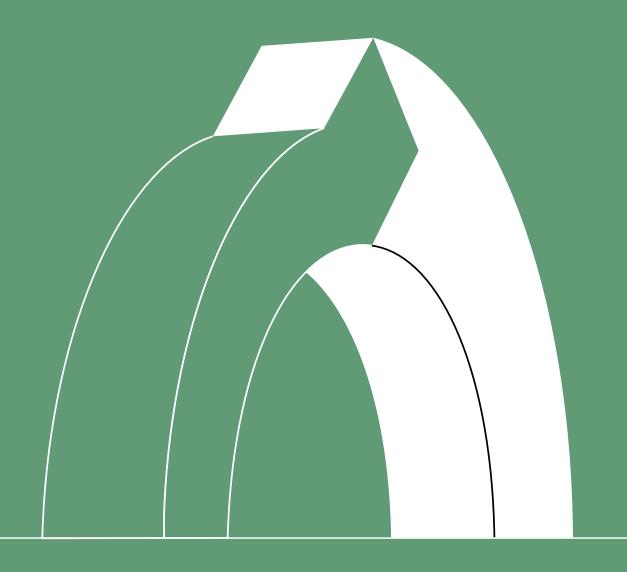




Painted Sculpture #1021 72 x 10 x 36 in. 1965

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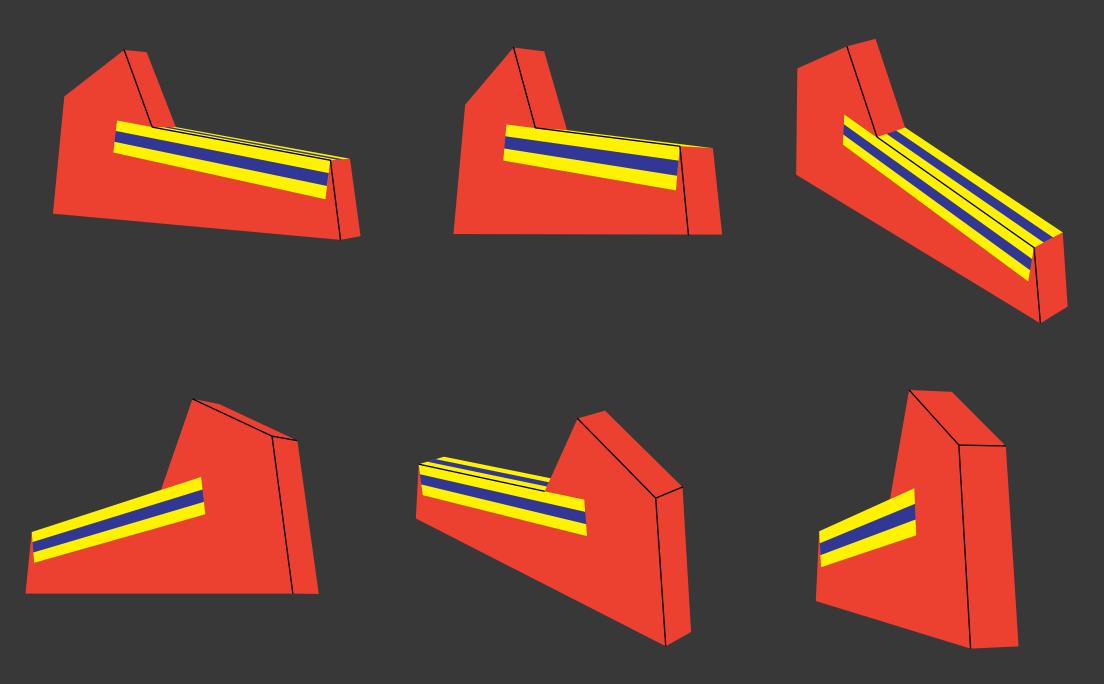
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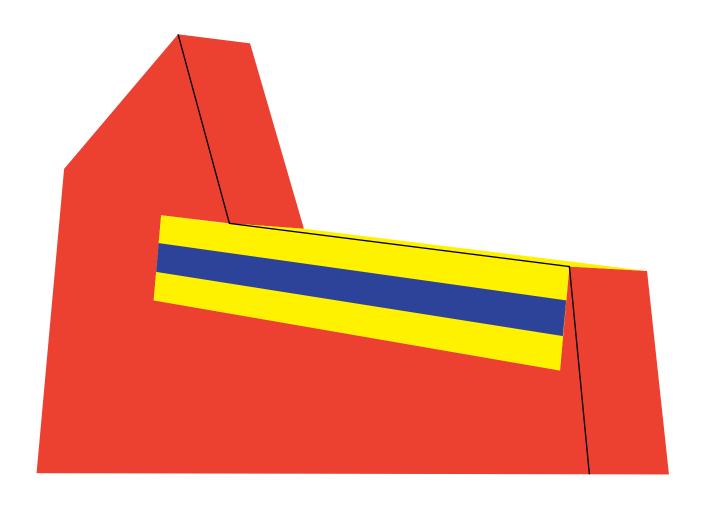


Painted Sculpture #0030 72 x 10 x 36 in. 1966



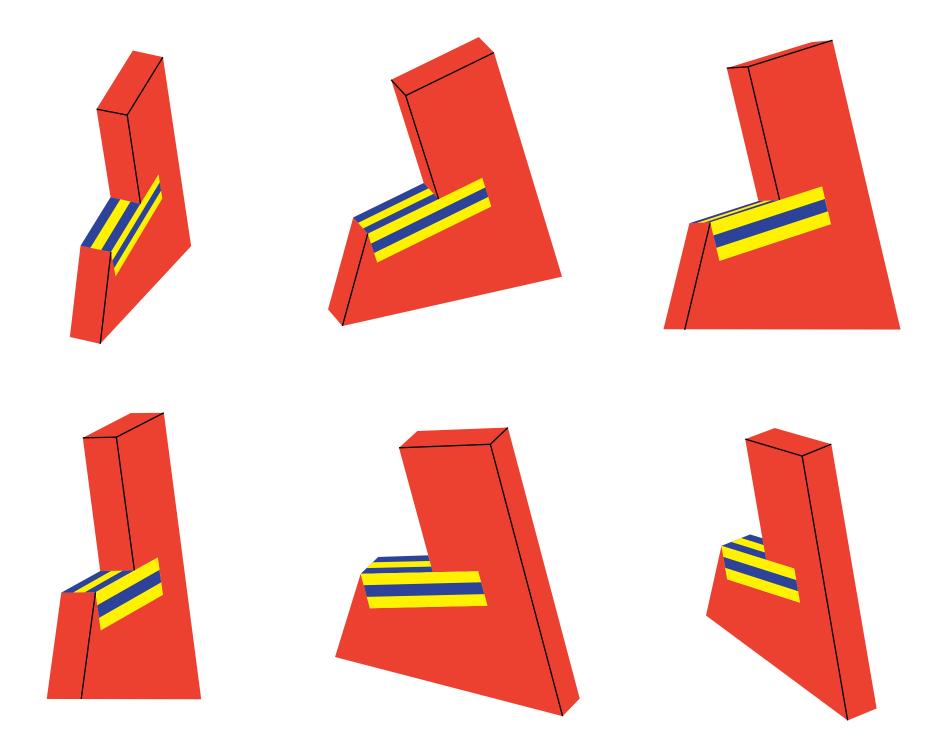


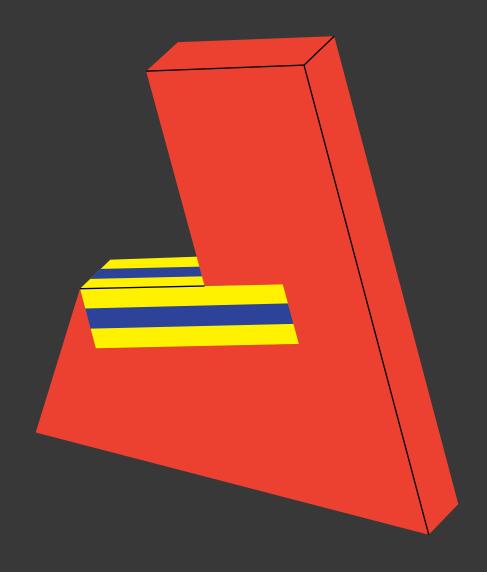




Painted Sculpture #1055 72 x 4 x 36 in. 1965

LEFT: 6 Views of Painted Sculpture #1055 1965



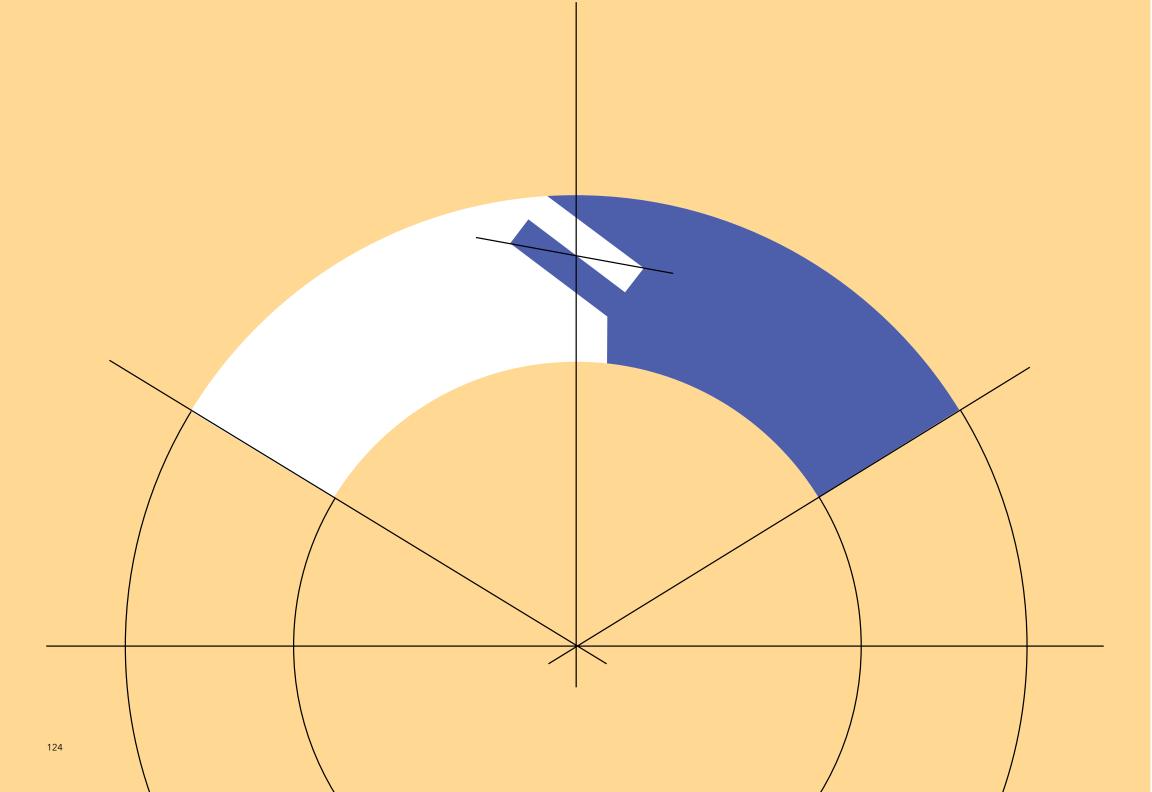


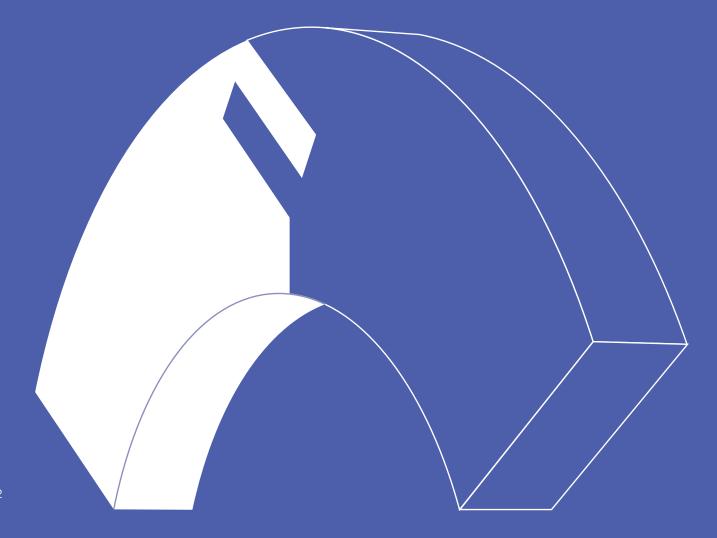
Painted Sculpture #1053 40 x 5 x 48 in. 1965

LEFT: 6 Views of Painted Sculpture #1053

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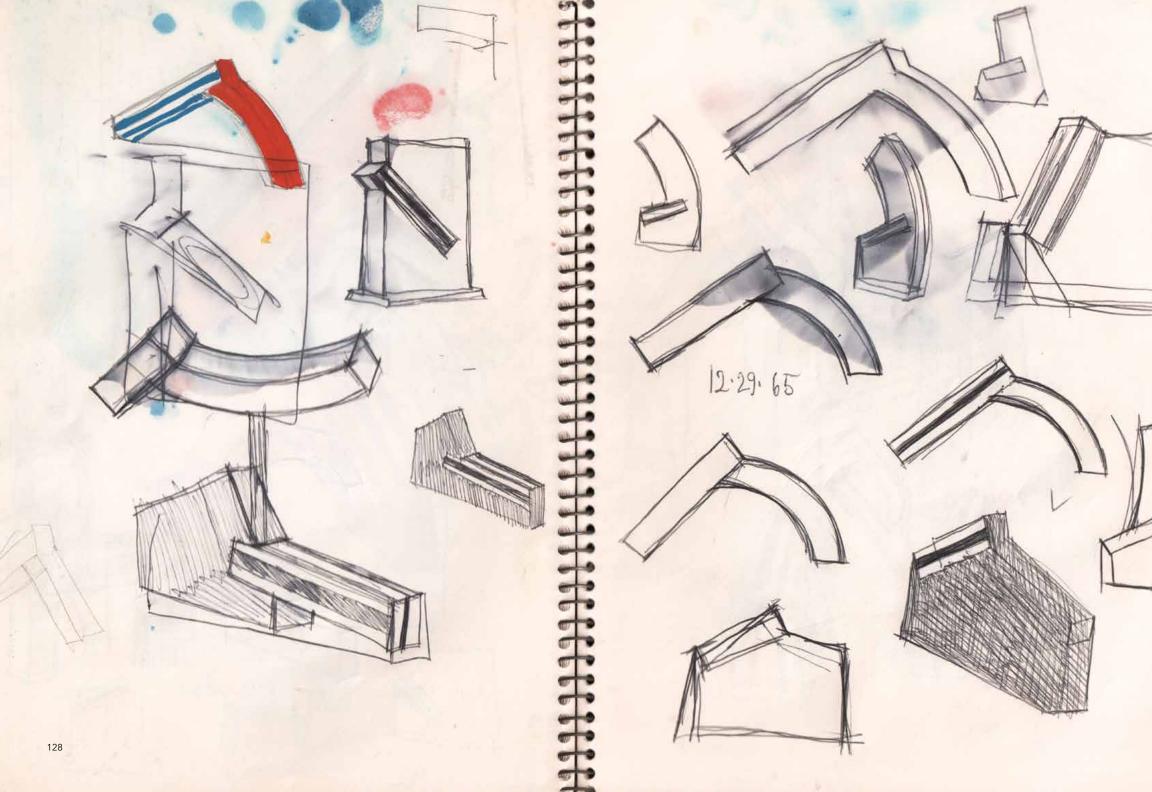






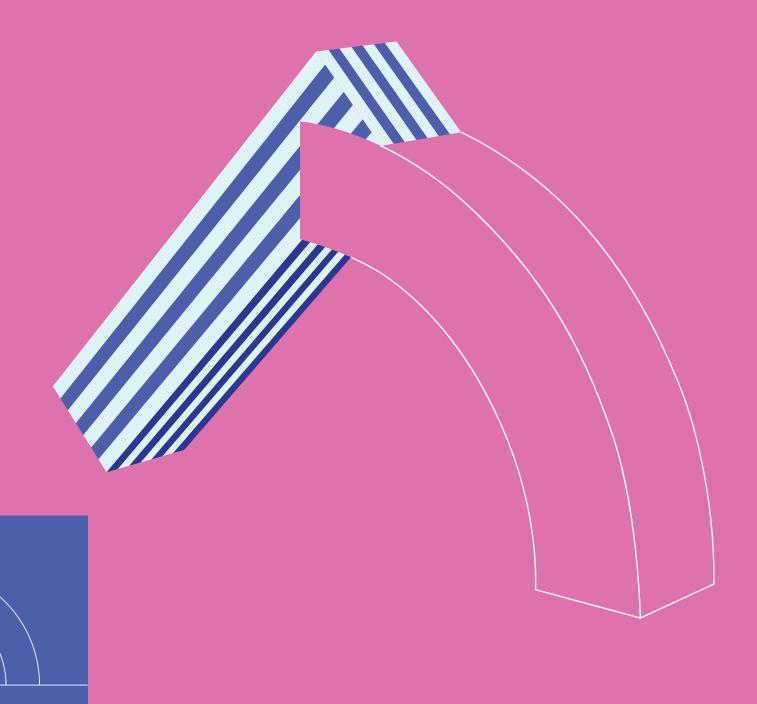
LEFT: Technical Drawing of #0052 Painted Sculpture #0052 72 x 10 x 36 in. 1966





LEFT: Sketchbook 2 pages 89-90 1966

Painted Sculpture and Technical Drawing #1022 84 x 12 x 48 in. 1966





Vasa with his dog, Lisac Los Angeles Studio 2012

I was born Velizar Mihich on April 25, 1933 in Otocac, a small Croatian town in Yugoslavia. In 1947, I was accepted to Belgrade's School for Applied Arts, where my colleagues nicknamed me Vasa, after a Russian professor had difficulty remembering my name. I graduated in 1951 with a degree in fresco murals, and remained in Belgrade to continue my studies at the Academy of Applied Arts.

In 1954, I earned a second degree in Roman Mosaics and Poster Arts, followed by an appointment as Assistant Professor at the University of Belgrade School of Architecture. My first solo show of drawings and prints took place in Belgrade in 1956.

In 1957, I traveled to Paris, where I discovered that the main influence in Contemporary Art was coming from the United States. I began thinking about a move to America. I arrived in New York in 1960, but ultimately settled in Los Angeles, where I opened a painting studio on Sunset Boulevard in Echo Park.

In 1965, I started to work on three-dimensional painted objects, and my first one-man show was held on January 6th, 1966 at the Los Angeles Feigen Palmer Gallery.

In 1967, I began working with plastics, and accepted full-time teaching positions at both the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles.

In 1970, I had my first public exhibition of laminated acrylics at USC's Fisher Gallery. 1970 was also the year I opened my studio in Venice Beach, where I maintained my workshop for eleven years. By 1971, I returned to teach exclusively in UCLA's Art Department, as an associate professor of Design.

In 1972, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Belgrade mounted a one-man show of my acrylic work. My first European solo show outside of Yugoslavia took place in 1980, at the Olivetti Cultural Center in Ivrea, Italy. I purchased a Los Angeles studio space the following year, hiring accomplished architect and colleague, Helmut Schulitz, to rehabilitate the old building to fit my needs.

Presently, I work in my Los Angeles studio, continuing to make paintings and sculptures.

Museum Collections

Larry Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, Conneticut 1973 Henri Gallery, Washington, DC Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado Gimpel-Weitzenhoffer, Ltd., New York Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, Yugoslavia 1974 Wenger Gallery, San Francisco, California University Art Museum, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico Lantern Gallery, Ann Arbor, Michigan Wilhelm Lehmbruck Museum, Duisberg, Germany 1975 Esther Robles Gallery, Los Angeles, California Hirschhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, 1976 Wenger Gallery, La Jolla, California Washington, DC 1977 Contemporary Art Forms, Encino, California Oakland Museum of Art, Oakland, California Alice Simsar Gallery, Ann Arbor, Michigan Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art. Fort Lauderdale. Florida Zara Gallery, San Francisco, California Wenger Gallery, San Diego, California University Art Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara, California Miami Museum, Oxford, Ohio 1978 Herbert B. Palmer and Co., Beverly Hills, California Phillips Collection, Washington, DC The Art Package Ltd., Highland Park, Illinois Honolulu Academy of Art, Honolulu, Hawaii 1979 Zara Gallery, San Francisco, California Milwaukee Art Center, Bradley Collection, Milwaukee, Wisconsin Gallery West, Los Angeles, California Contemporary Graphics Center, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Wenger Gallery, San Diego, California Santa Barbara, California Brena Gallery, Denver, Colorado Musees Royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, Art Moderne, Brussels, Belgium Contemporary Gallery, Dallas, Texas 1980 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, California Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, California Olivetti Cultural Center, Ivrea, Italy Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Los Angeles, California 2RC Gallery, Milan, Italy UCLA Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, Los Angeles, California Brunnier Gallery, Iowa State Center, Ames, Iowa San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, California 1981 Alice Simsar Gallery, Ann Arbor, Michigan Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, California Gallery West, Los Angeles, California Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Pepperdine University, Medici-Berenson Gallery, Bay Harbor Islands, Florida Malibu, California 1983 Wenger Gallery, San Diego, California 1984 Galerie Ninety-Nine, Bay Harbor Islands, Florida One Man Exhibitions Posner Gallery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 1985

			Joseph Chowning Gallery, San Francisco, California
1956	Salon of Graphic Arts, Belgrade, Yugoslavia		Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, Yugoslavia
1959	Salon of Graphic Arts, Belgrade, Yugoslavia	1988	Hokin Gallery, Bay Harbor Islands, Florida
1966	Feigen Palmer Gallery, Los Angeles, California	1989	Goldman-Kraft Gallery, Chicago, Illinois
1967	Herbert Palmer Gallery, Los Angeles, California	1991	Gallery West, Los Angeles, California
1970	Fisher Gallery, University of Southern California,		Hokin Gallery, Bay Harbor Islands, Florida
	Los Angeles, California	1992	John Mallon Gallery, Indianapolis, Indiana
1972	Esther Robles Gallery, Los Angeles, California		Imago, Palm Springs, California
	Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, Yugoslavia	1995	Space TRY, TRYangle Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

Selected Group Exhibitions

1966

La Jolla Museum of Art, La Jolla, California, "New Modes in California Painting and Sculpture." Invitational.

San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, California, "85th Annual Exhibition of the San Francisco Art Institute."

Balboa Pavilion, Balboa, California, "Some Continuing Directions." Invitational.

1967

Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, "Contemporary American Painting and Sculpture," Invitational.

Larry Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut, "American Art of 1964, 1965, 1966."

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California, "American Sculpture of the Sixties."

Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, "American Sculpture of the Sixties."

A.M. Sachs Gallery, New York, "Critics, Curators, and Collectors."

Occidental College, Los Angeles, California, "Primary Structures," Invitational.

Fine Arts Gallery, California State University, Los Angeles, California, "New Sculpture and Shaped Canvas."

1968

Fine Arts Gallery, California State University, Fullerton, California, "Transparency/Reflection," Invitational.

1969

La Jolla Museum of Art, La Jolla, California, "Affect/Effect."

1969

Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, "Fourth Belgrade Triennial of Yugoslavian Visual Art."

University Art Museum, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, "Annual Purchasing Exhibition."

1971

Modern Gallery, Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, "Post War Serbian Art."

October Salon, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, "Critics' Selections 1970."

Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado, "The 73rd Western Annual," Invitational.

University of Iowa Museum, Iowa City, Iowa, "Living with Art: Selected Loans from the Collection of Mr. And Mrs. Walter J. Netsch."

1972

California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, California, "The Last Plastics Show."

Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, "Yugoslavian Graphics 1965-1972."

1973

United States Information Service Traveling Show, Tokyo, Japan, "Creative America—Forty-Five Sculptors."

1975

Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, "Fifth Belgrade Triennial of Yugoslavian Visual Art."

1977

Los Angeles Institute of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California, "100+ Current Directions in Southern California Art."

Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, "Fifth Belgrade Triennial of Yugoslavian Visual Art."

1978

Museum am Ostwall, Dortmund, Germany, "Tendenzen in der Jugoslawischen Kunst von Heute."

Staatliche Museen Preubischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin, Germany, "Tendenzen in der Jugoslawischen Kunst von Heute."

Art Museum and Gallery, California State University, Long Beach, California, "Selections from the Frederick Weisman Company Collection of California Art."

Kunsthalle Nuremburg, Nuremberg, Germany, "Tendenzen in der Jugoslawischen Kunst von Heute."

1979

Musees Royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium, "Tendances de l'Art en el Yugoslavie."

Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Rome, Italy, "Tendenze dell'Arte Jugoslava d'Oggi."

Denver Art Museum, Denver, Colorado, "The Reality of Illusion."

University Galleries, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, "The Reality of Illusion."

Honolulu Academy of Art, Honolulu, Hawaii, "The Reality of Illusion."

Oakland Museum of Art, Oakland, California, "The Reality of Illusion."

Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, "Jugoslovensko Slikarstvo Seste Decenije (Yugoslavian Paintings of the Sixties)."

Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, New York, "The Reality of Illusion."

1980

Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio, "The Reality of Illusion."

1983

Alice Simsar Gallery, Ann Arbor, Michigan, "Recent Works: Neda Al-Hilali, Sherry Smith, Vasa."

San Diego Art Museum, San Diego, California, "Insight: A Selection from San Diego Collections."

Gallery of Contemporary Art, Zagreb, Yugoslavia, "Minimalism in Yugoslavia."

1984

Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, California, "Frederick R. Weisman Foundation Collection of Contemporary Art."

Albuquerque Museum of Art, Albuquerque, New Mexico, "Frederick R. Weisman Foundation Collection of Contemporary Art."

San Francisco Institute of Art, San Francisco, California, "Frederick R. Weisman Foundation Collection of Contemporary Art."

Musees Royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, Art Moderne, Brussels, Belgium, "Opening Exhibition."

1985

Offices of Senators Pete Wilson and Alan Cranston, Washington, DC, "California Art from the Frederick R. Weisman Foundation."

Chicago International Art Exposition, Chicago, Illinois.

Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel, "Frederick R. Weisman Foundation Collection of Contemporary Art."

Alice Simsar Gallery, Ann Arbor, Michigan, "New Works: Garo Antreasian, Ellen Stavitsky, Vasa."

Museum of Contemporary Art, Belgrade, Yugoslavia, "Jugoslovenska Grafika 1950–1980 (Yugoslavian Graphics 1950–1980)." This show traveled through October 1986 to the following locations in Yugoslavia: Art Gallery BIH, Sarajevo, Gallery of Contemporary Art, Novi Sad, Museum of Contemporary Art, Skopje Art Gallery, Pristina Gallery of Contemporary Art, Zagreb Modern Gallery, Ljubjana Art Museum of SR Crne Gore, Cetinje

1986

Laforet Museum, Tokyo, Japan, "Frederick R. Weisman Foundation Collection of Contemporary Art."

N-1 Gallery, Nagoya, Japan, "Frederick R. Weisman Foundation Collection of Contemporary Art."

Chicago International Art Exposition, Chicago, Illinois.

Navio Museum, Osaka, Japan, "Frederick R. Weisman Foundation Collection of Contemporary Art."

SOGO, Yokohama, Japan, "Frederick R. Weisman Foundation Collection of Contemporary Art."

National Museum of Modern Art, Seoul, Korea, "Frederick R. Weisman Foundation Collection of Contemporary Art."

Wight Art Gallery, University of California, Los Angeles, California, "Teaching Artists: The UCLA Faculty of Art and Design."

Herbert Palmer Gallery, Los Angeles, California, "California Masters."

Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong, "Frederick R. Weisman Collection of Contemporary Art."

1988

Residence of the American Embassy, Moscow, "American Art of the 20th Century."

Gensler and Associates/Architects, Los Angeles, California, "Art for All Seasons."

1990

Rubiner Gallery, Bloomfield, Michigan, "Introductions."

1991

Posner Gallery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, "Vasa / Judith Wolfe."

1994

Editions Limited Gallery, Indianapolis, Indiana, "Marko Spalatin / Vasa."

1995

Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, "Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Collections."

1996

Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, "California Art from the Frederick R. Weisman Collections."

1997

Saline Royale d'Arc et Senans, Doubs, France, "Passion Plastiques."

Editions Limited Gallery, Indianapolis, Indiana, "New Works by Michael Lue and Vasa."

2002

Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art, Pepperdine University, Malibu, California, "10th Anniversary Celebration: California Art From the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation."

2003

Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, Louisiana, "Made in California: Selections from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation Collection."

Doré Theatre Complex/Todd Madigan Gallery, California State University, Bakersfield, California, "Made in California: Selected Works from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation."

2006

Beverly Hills Municipal Gallery, Beverly Hills, California, "L.A. Art Scene, Selected Works by Local Artists from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation."

UCLA Eli & Edythe Broad Arts Center, Los Angeles, California, "Second Natures: Faculty Exhibition of the UCLA Design and Media Arts."

2007

Pepperdine University Fredrick R Weisman Museum of Art, Malibu, California, "Made in California: Contemporary California Art from the Fredrick R. Weisman Art Foundation, 15th Anniversary Celebration."

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Colorado Springs, Colorado, "The Eclectic Eye: Pop and Illusion - Selections from the Fredrick R. Weisman Art Foundation."

Riverside Art Museum (RAM), Riverside, California, "Keeping it Straight: Right Angles and Hard Edges in Contemporary Southern California Art."

2009

Riverside Art Museum, Riverside, California. "Driven to Abstraction: Southern California and the Non-Objective World, 1950–1980."

2011

Pepperdine University Fredrick R Weisman Museum of Art, Malibu, California, "California Art: Selections from the Fredrick R. Weisman Art Foundation."

2014

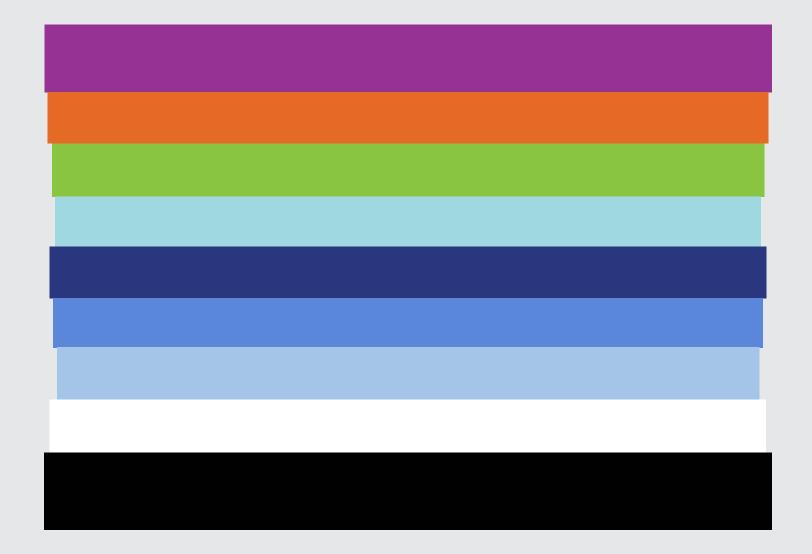
The House of Legacy, Belgrade, "Works of 50 artists from the collections of the Museum of Contemporary Art - Yugoslavian Art from 1951 to 1989"

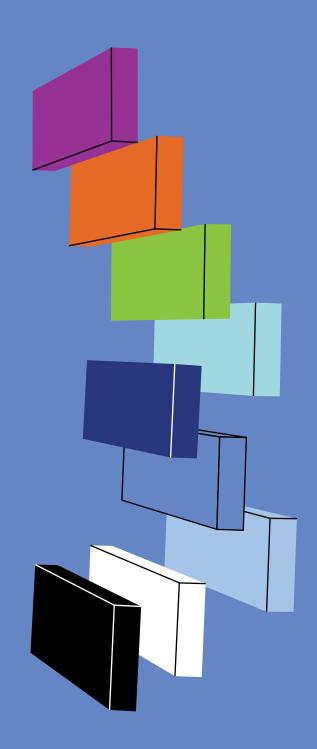
Nyehaus, New York, New York, "The Very Last Plastics Show: Industrial L.A. 1965 to the Present."

2015

Museum of Contemporary Art Vojvodine, Novi Sad, "In-between private and public."

The House of Legacy, Belgrade, "In-between private and public."





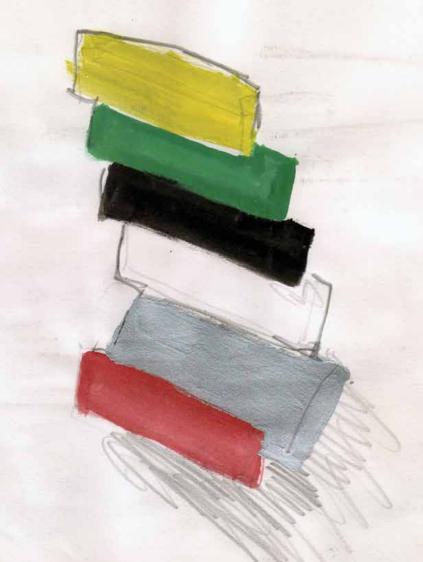
2 Views of Painted Sculpture #1032 84 x 16.5 x 58 in. 1966



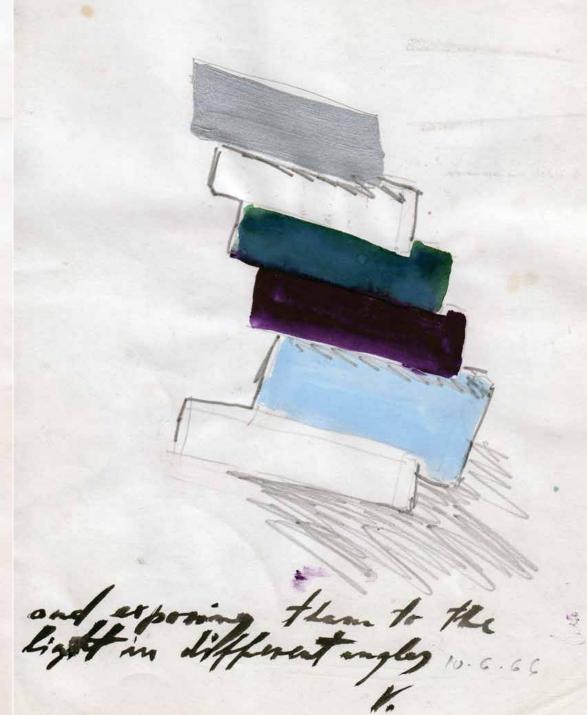


LEFT: Original Sketches Sketchbook 6, Pages 51 & 52 8.5 x 11 in. 1966

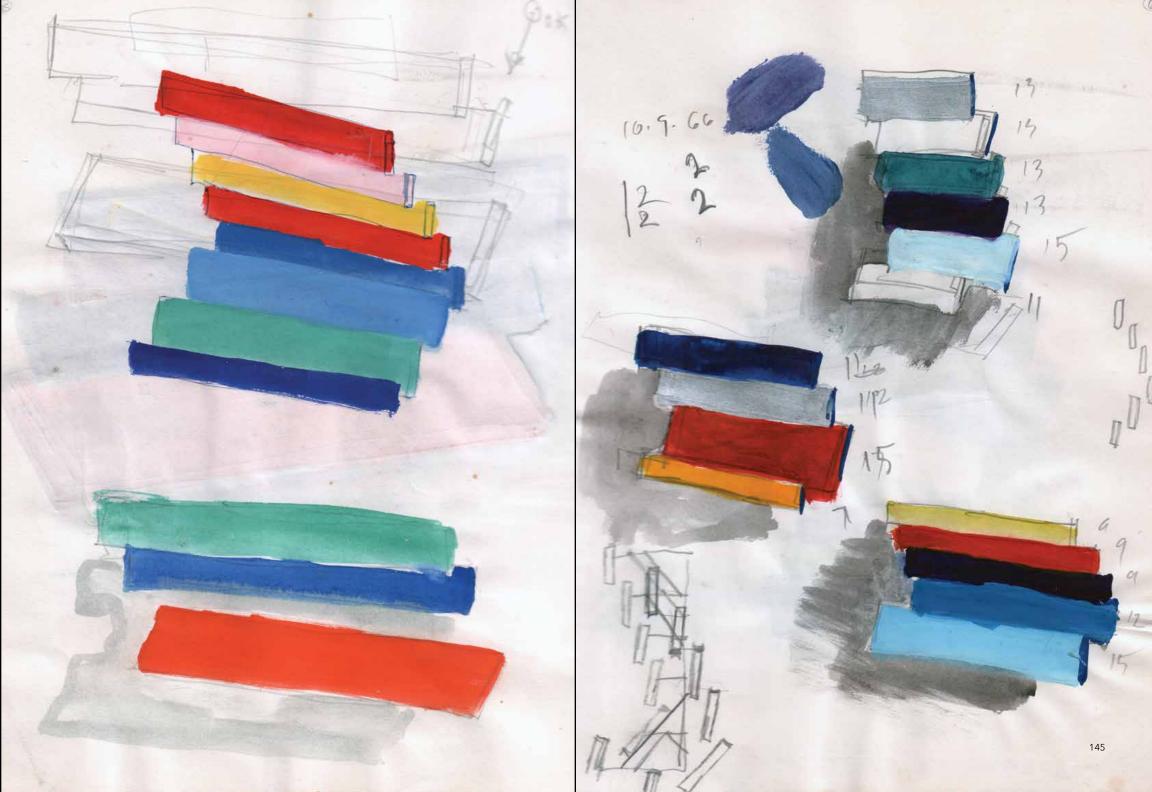
I am liberating the various individual sections of color from the common flat surface of the painting, lifting them into space—and exposing them to the light in different angles.



individual netting the various individual netting flat painting the space -



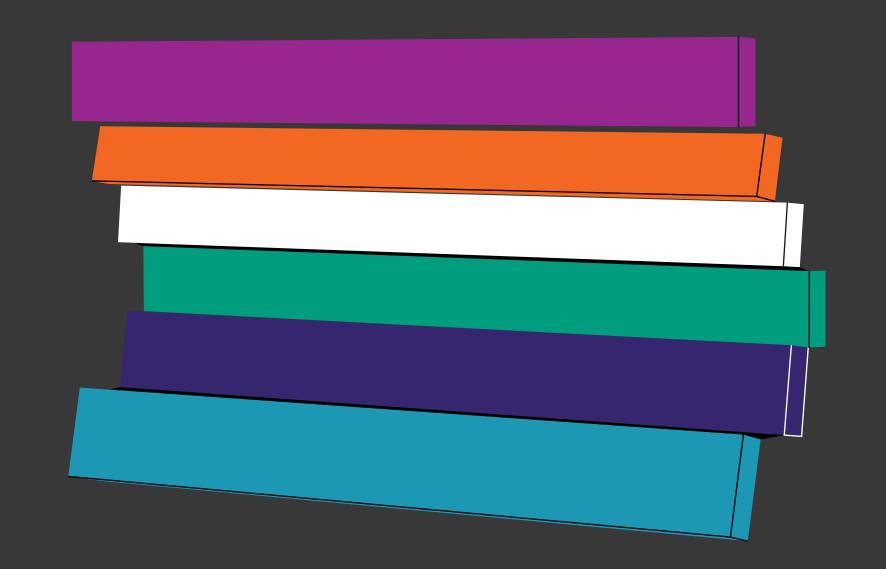






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Painted Sculpture #1020 84 x 12.5 x 50 in. 1966





If the works are fabricated in the future they will be made out of tempered masonite and painted with high-gloss automobile lacquer.

This book would not be possible without the assistance of Laurel Bybee. -Vasa

