"CY TWOMBLY: THE SCULPTURE."
FIRST MAJOR RETROSPECTIVE
OF ARTIST'S SCULPTURE ON VIEW
AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART.
MAY 6 – JULY 29, 2001

Washington, D.C. – Cy Twombly: The Sculpture, the first major survey of the artist's three-dimensional works, will be on view in the West Building of the National Gallery of Art from May 6 through July 29, 2001. The exhibition, previously on view at the Kunstmuseum Basel and The Menil Collection, Houston, brings together 58 of the artist's sculptures, spanning the years from 1946 to the present. Before this retrospective, many of the objects had rarely been shown.

"Cy Twombly is one of the most distinguished artists of the postwar period. His sculpture is remarkable both for its haunting beauty and its poetic allusions to motifs and relics of classical antiquity," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "This first sculpture retrospective will certainly attract long-deserved attention to Twombly's substantial contribution to twentieth-century sculpture."

THE EXHIBITION

Cy Twombly: The Sculpture is devoted to an impressive but less familiar body of the artist's work than his paintings and drawings. The exhibition features works, mostly small and medium in scale, representing two major sculptural campaigns: 1948 to 1959 and 1976 to 1998.

Composed primarily of rough fragments of wood coated in plaster and white paint, Twombly's sculpture is rooted in various prominent movements in modern art, including the dadaist and surrealist traditions of assemblage and found-object sculpture. His work alludes to artifacts of the archaic past—tribal fetishes, reliquaries, altars, chariots, and architectural fragments—and incorporates poetry and mythological themes from Greek and Roman antiquity.

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The exhibition includes outstanding examples of Twombly's early works, such as Untitled, New York 1954, which exemplifies his preoccupation with the themes of ritual and mortality. In this sculpture, Twombly uses both palm fronds, symbolic of eternal life, and a shrinelike plinth, suggesting the cult of the dead. Another early piece, Untitled [Rome], 1959, demonstrates the introduction of ancient mythology into his work. Formed by eleven bound rods placed on a corrugated cardboard box, this sculpture suggests an archaic panpipe resting on an altar, alluding to Pan, an Arcadian fertility deity.

Several recurring motifs appear in later sculptures in the exhibition. Untitled, Bassano in Teverina 1979 and Anabasis, Bassano in Teverina 1980, recall ancient battle chariots—allusions to archaic warfare which Twombly explores in other works. Winter's Passage: Luxor, Porto Ercole 1985, an important later sculpture, employs another prominent motif, the boat, and reveals the influence of Egyptian art on Twombly's work. Untitled, Bassano in Teverina 1987, a two-tiered pyramid, shows the artist's special fascination with architectural elements.

THE ARTIST

Cy Twombly was born on April 25, 1928, in Lexington, Virginia. He studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Washington and Lee University in Virginia, and the Art Students League in New York. His subsequent study at the renowned school for the arts, Black Mountain College, in North Carolina, strongly influenced his early development.

In the early 1950s, following extended travel in Italy, Spain, and North Africa, Twombly returned to New York and emerged as a prominent figure among a group of artists working there, including Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg. By the end of the 1950s Twombly had relocated to Italy, married, and discontinued his work in sculpture, preferring to focus on his drawings and paintings. In 1976 Twombly returned to sculpture, and since that time has consistently created both spare wooden constructions and bronze casts. To date, Twombly has created over 150 works of sculpture, the most significant of which are included in the Gallery exhibition.

ORGANIZERS AND CATALOGUE

Cy Twombly: The Sculpture was co-organized by The Menil Collection, Houston, and the Öffentliche Kunstsammlung Basel. Jeffrey Weiss, curator of modern and contemporary art at the National Gallery of Art, is coordinating the Washington installation, which Twombly himself will supervise. A fully illustrated exhibition catalogue (in English and German) by Katharina Schmidt, director, Öffentliche Kunstsammlung Basel, is available for $55 in the Gallery Shops, or by calling 1(800) 697-9350.
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Slide Lectures

Sunday, May 6, 2:00 p.m.
The "in-two" of Twombly's Sculpture
Rosalind Krauss, Meyer Schapiro Professor of Modern Art and Theory, Columbia
University, New York
East Building auditorium

Thursday, May 17, 6:00 p.m.
The Sculpture of Cy Twombly
Kirk Varnedoe, chief curator, department of painting and sculpture, The Museum of
Modern Art, New York
East Building auditorium

Tours of the Exhibition

Tours begin at the West Building art information desk. For dates and times, please consult
the calendar of events there, the Gallery's Web site at www.nga.gov, or call (202) 842-6706. No reservations are required. Tours by special appointment may be arranged for
adult groups of twenty or more by calling (202) 842-6247.

For information about accessibility to galleries and public areas, assistive listening devices,
sign language interpretation, and other services, please inquire at the art information
desks, access the Web site at www.nga.gov, or call (202) 842-6690.

NATIONAL GALLERY INFORMATION

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden, located on the National Mall between
Third and Ninth Streets, NW, are open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call (202) 737-4215; Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176; or visit the

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Cy Twombly: The Sculpture
Checklist
National Gallery of Art 6 May - 29 July 2001

• J-peg image available
☐ Slide available in exhibition slide packet

1. Untitled
   Lexington, 1946
   wood and metal
   36.8 x 8.9 x 9.2 cm (14 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 3 5/8)
   Daros Collection, Switzerland

2. Untitled
   Lexington, 1948
   wood, porcelain knobs, metal curtain tie-back, cloth, and house paint
   35.8 x 26.7 x 30.5 cm (14 1/8 x 10 1/2 x 12)
   Collection of the artist, Rome

3. Untitled
   • New York, 1953
   □ wood, wire, twine, nails, house paint, and wax on cloth
   38.1 x 25 x 10.1 cm (15 x 9 7/8 x 4)
   Collection of Robert Rauschenberg

4. Untitled
   New York, 1954
   wood, glass, mirrors, cloth, twine, wire, wooden spoons, oil crayon, house paint, and wax
   203.2 x 35 x 28 cm (80 x 13 3/4 x 11)
   Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston

5. Untitled
   • New York, 1954
   □ wood, palm leaves, twine, house paint, cloth, nails, and wire
   139 x 60 x 12.4 cm (54 3/4 x 23 5/8 x 4 7/8)
   Collection of the artist, Rome

6. Untitled
   New York, 1955
   wood, wooden spoons, house paint, cloth, glue, and nails
   105 x 15.5 x 15.5 cm (41 3/8 x 6 1/8 x 6 1/8)
   Collection of the artist, Rome

7. Untitled
   New York, 1955
   wood, wooden spoons, cloth, nails, house paint, and rope
   29.8 x 30.5 x 18.4 cm (11 3/4 x 12 x 7 1/4)
   Collection of the artist, Rome

- more -
8.   *Untitled*
   New York, 1955
   wood, cloth, twine, and house paint
   56.5 x 14.3 x 13 cm (22 1/4 x 5 5/8 x 5 1/8)
   Collection of the artist, Rome

9.   *Untitled*
   • Rome, 1959
   wood, cloth, cardboard, house paint, and nail
   67 x 34 x 27 cm (26 3/8 x 13 3/8 x 10 5/8)
   Kunsthaus Zürich

10.  *Untitled*
    New York, 1959
    wood, plastic leaf, plaster, pigment, and house paint
    70.4 x 34.6 x 39.4 cm (27 3/4 x 13 5/8 x 15 5/8)
    Collection of the artist, Rome

11.  *Untitled*
    Rome, 1976
    cardboard tubes, cloth, house paint, and paper tape
    193.6 x 16.8 x 16.8 cm (76 1/4 x 6 5/8 x 6 5/8)
    Collection of the artist, Rome

13.  *Untitled*
    Rome, 1978
    wood, cloth, wire, nails, and paint
    43.8 x 222.2 x 17.8 cm (17 1/4 x 87 1/2 x 7)
    Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston

14.  *Cycnus*
    • Rome, 1978
    □ wood, palm leaf, paint, and nails
    40.6 x 24.7 x 5.7 cm (16 x 9 3/4 x 2 1/4)
    Collection of the artist, Rome

15.  *Orpheus (Thou unending trace)*
    • Rome, 1979
    wood, nails, paint, and graphite
    266 x 244.5 x 22.2 cm (104 3/4 x 96 1/4 x 8 3/4)
    Collection of the artist, Rome

16.  *Untitled*
    Bassano in Teverina, 1979
    plaster and sand
    49 x 42 x 22 cm (19 3/8 x 16 5/8 x 8 3/4)
    Kunsthaus Zürich

17.  *Untitled*
    Bassano in Teverina, 1979 (cast Rome 1979)
    bronze, edition 4/6
    47.6 x 45.7 x 22.8 cm (18 3/4 x 18 x 9)
    Collection of the artist, Rome

- more -
18. **Untitled**  
- Bassano in Teverina, 1979  
  - wood, plaster, sand, nails, and paint  
  - 177.1 x 60 x 63.5 cm (69 3/4 x 23 5/8 x 25)  
  - Collection of the artist, Rome

19. **Untitled**  
- Bassano in Teverina, 1980  
  - wood, nails, clay, metal, and paint  
  - 202.7 x 59 x 39.7 cm (79 7/8 x 23 1/4 x 15 5/8)  
  - Private collection, Rome

20. **Untitled**  
- Bassano in Teverina, 1980  
  - wood, nails, paint, wire, and metal strapping  
  - 273 x 41.4 x 64.8 cm (107 1/2 x 16 3/8 x 25 1/2)  
  - Collection of the artist, Rome

22. **Untitled**  
- Bassano in Teverina, 1980  
  - plaster and sand  
  - 36 x 36.5 x 27 cm (14 1/8 x 14 x 10 5/8)  
  - Collection of the artist, Rome

23. **Anabasis**  
- Bassano in Teverina, 1980  
  - wood, clay, plywood, metal strips, nails, paint, cloth, casters, paper, and staples  
  - 116.8 x 48.9 x 49.5 cm (46 x 19 1/4 x 19 1/2)  
  - Collection of the artist, Rome

24. **The Keeper of Sheep**  
- Bassano in Teverina, 1980  
  - wood, palm leaves, plaster, wire, nails, clay, metal strips, glue, and paint  
  - 192.6 x 91.2 x 94 cm (75 7/8 x 36 x 37)  
  - Private collection, Rome

25. **Aurora**  
- Rome, 1981  
  - wood, plastic flower, wire, twine, plaster, nails, and paint  
  - 134.6 x 109.5 x 21.1 cm (53 x 43 1/8 x 8 3/8)  
  - Private collection, Rome

26. **Anadyomene**  
- Bassano in Teverina, 1981  
  - wood, nails, crayon, paint, cloth, and screw eye  
  - 47 x 57.1 x 73.6 cm (18 1/2 x 22 1/2 x 29)  
  - Private collection, Rome

27. **Untitled**  
- Formia, 1981  
  - wood, nails, cord, paint, and screw eyes  
  - 152 x 88.4 x 33.6 cm (59 7/8 x 34 7/8 x 13 1/4)  
  - Private collection, Rome

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28. **Thicket**  
Formia-Rome, 1981  
wood, wicker, plastic flowers, nails, wire, and paint  
123.8 x 29.8 x 54.6 cm (48 3/4 x 11 3/4 x 21 1/2)  
Collection of the artist, Rome

29. **Untitled**  
Bassano in Teverina, 1981  
wood, webbing, thread, plastic and metal casters, wire, nails, and paint  
154.3 x 39.4 x 38.4 cm (60 3/4 x 15 1/2 x 15 1/8)  
Collection of the artist, Rome

31. **Untitled**  
bronze, edition 5/6  
141.6 x 24.1 x 32.4 cm (55 3/4 x 9 1/2 x 12 3/4)  
Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston

33. **Untitled**  
painted bronze, edition 2/5  
176 x 22.8 x 41 cm (69 3/8 x 9 x 16 1/8)  
Private collection, Rome

34. **Untitled**  
painted bronze, edition 2/4  
82 x 55.8 x 52 cm (32 1/4 x 22 x 20 1/2)  
Collection of the artist, Rome

35. **Untitled**  
Gaeta, 1984 (cast Rome 1987)  
painted bronze and graphite, edition 2/4  
120.6 x 36.2 x 57.1 cm (47 1/2 x 14 1/4 x 22 1/2)  
Private collection

36. **Untitled**  
Rome, 1984/1985  
wood, plaster, nails, paint, and metal fastener  
51.3 x 52.7 x 23.7 cm (20 1/4 x 20 3/4 x 9 3/8)  
Collection of the artist, Rome

37. **Winter's Passage: Luxor**  
- Porto Ercole, 1985  
- wood, nails, paint, paper, glue, and traces of copper sulphate  
53.5 x 105 x 51 cm (21 1/8 x 41 3/8 x 20 1/8)  
Kunsthaus Zürich

38. **Untitled**  
Bassano in Teverina, 1985  
- wood, plaster, plastic leaf, nails, pigment, and paint  
33 x 46 x 60.3 cm (13 x 18 1/8 x 23 3/4)  
Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston

- more -
39. **Untitled**  
Gaeta, 1985  
wood, plaster, nails, paint, iron ring, and metal fastener  
82.1 x 74 x 34.2 cm (32 3/8 x 29 3/4 x 13 1/2)  
Öffentliche Kunstsammlung Basel, Kunstmuseum, Arnold Rüdinger Fund

41. **Rotalla**  
Gaeta, 1986  
wood, metal, cloth, nails, and paint  
72 x 71 x 52 cm (28 3/8 x 28 x 20 1/2)  
Kunsthaus Zürich

42. **Rotalla**  
Gaeta, 1986 (cast Pfaffikon 1990)  
bronze, edition 2/6  
71.1 x 68 x 50.1 cm (28 x 26 3/4 x 19 3/4)  
Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston

43. **In Time the Wind Will Come and Destroy My Lemons**  
Rome, 1987  
wood, plaster, nails, and paint  
26.2 x 97.8 x 50.1 cm (10 3/8 x 38 1/2 x 19 3/4)  
Collection of the artist, Rome

44. **Ctesiphon**  
Gaeta, 1987  
wood, plaster, metal strips, nails, paint, and wire  
65.4 x 90.8 x 52.7 cm (25 3/4 x 35 3/4 x 20 3/4)  
Collection of the artist, Rome

45. **Untitled**  
Rome, 1987  
wood, nails, twine, paper, paint, plaster, and plywood  
123.2 x 41.3 x 41.3 cm (48 1/2 x 16 1/4 x 16 1/4)  
Collection of the artist, Rome

46. **By the Ionian Sea**  
Gaeta, 1987  
wood, nails, plaster, clay, glue, pencil, and paint  
33 x 62 x 51.5 cm (13 x 24 1/2 x 20 1/4)  
Kunsthaus Zürich

47. **Untitled**  
Bassano in Teverina, 1987  
wood, plaster, nails, clay, paint, and crayon  
128.9 x 152 x 29.8 cm (50 3/4 x 59 7/8 x 11 3/4)  
Collection of the artist, Rome

48. **Untitled**  
Bassano in Teverina, 1988  
wood, plaster, clay, and traces of paint  
32.4 x 35.5 x 21 cm (12 3/4 x 14 x 8 1/4)  
Collection of the artist, Rome

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49. *Untitled*
   Bassano in Teverina, 1989
   wood, plaster, nails, and paint
   75.6 x 31.1 x 32.7 cm (29 3/4 x 12 1/4 x 12 7/8)
   Collection of the artist, Rome

50. *Untitled*
   Gaeta, 1990
   wood, cloth, plastic flowers, wire, clay, paint, metal, wax, and thread
   167.6 x 35 x 34.3 cm (66 x 13 3/4 x 13 1/2)
   Collection of the artist, Rome

51. *Thicket (Thicket of Ur)*
   Gaeta, 1990
   bamboo, metal, wood, wire, wooden tags, paint, graphite, and plaster
   188.3 x 38.1 x 36.2 cm (74 1/8 x 15 x 14 1/4)
   Öffentliche Kunstsammlung Basel, Kunstmuseum, Arnold Rüdinger Fund

52. *Thicket (Thickets of Akkad – Sumer)*
   Gaeta, 1991
   wood (tree trunk), cement, wire, twine, paper, wooden tags, paint, nails, and ink
   260.3 x 58.4 x 57.1 cm (102 1/2 x 23 x 22 1/2)
   Collection of the artist, Rome

53. *Thermopylae*
   Gaeta, 1991
   plaster on wicker, coarsely woven cloth, graphite, wooden sticks, and plaster-coated cloth flowers on plastic stems
   137 x 89 x 66 cm (54 x 35 x 26)
   Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston

54. *Thermopylae*
   Gaeta, 1991 (cast Meudon 1992)
   bronze, edition 3/3
   137 x 89 x 66 cm (54 x 35 x 26)
   Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston

55. *(To F. P.) The Keeper of Sheep*
   Jupiter Island, 1992
   wood, cloth, plaster, nails, and paint
   194.6 x 29.2 x 63.5 cm (76 5/8 x 11 1/2 x 25)
   Collection of the artist, Lexington

56. *Untitled*
   Jupiter Island, 1992
   wood and plaster
   48.2 x 33.6 x 44.4 cm (19 x 13 1/4 x 17 1/2)
   Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston

61. *Epitaph*
   Jupiter Island, 1992
   wood, plaster, plywood, and paint
   40.7 x 38.7 x 38.1 cm (16 x 15 1/4 x 15)
   Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston

- more -
62. *Thicket*
   Jupiter Island, 1992
   wood, plastic leaves, plaster, and paint
   47.8 x 33.8 x 23.5 cm (18 7/8 x 13 3/8 x 9 1/4)
   Cy Twombly Gallery, The Menil Collection, Houston

63. *Madame d'O*
   Jupiter Island, 1992
   wood, palm frond, metal, wire, plaster, and paint
   177.8 x 40.6 x 27 cm (70 x 16 x 10 5/8)
   Collection of the artist, Lexington

64. *Untitled*
   Gaeta, 1993
   painted iron pot, paper bag, and dried flower
   78.1 x 36.2 x 37.1 cm (30 3/4 x 14 1/4 x 14 5/8)
   Collection of the artist, Rome

65. *Vulci Chronicle*
   Gaeta, 1995
   wood, paint, palm fronds, and plaster
   27.9 x 61.3 x 33 cm (11 x 24 1/8 x 13)
   Collection of the artist, Rome

66. *Untitled*
   Gaeta, 1998
   wood, plaster, wire, plastic flower pot, and paint
   128.6 x 24.1 x 19.9 cm (50 5/8 x 9 1/2 x 7 7/8)
   Collection of the artist, Rome

*Untitled*
Lexington, 2000 (cast New York 2001)
bronze
235.5 x 58.4 x 78.7 cm (92 3/4 x 23 x 31)
Property of the artist