

The Museum of Modern Art

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A major sculpture by José de Rivera will start revolving in a pool in The Museum of Modern Art garden on Wednesday, November 10, at 3:30 p.m., when William S. Paley, Vice-Chairman of the Museum Board and Chairman of CBS, accepts the work as a gift from the American Iron and Steel Institute.

L. B. Worthington, President of the United States Steel Corporation and Chairman of the American Iron and Steel Institute, will make the presentation of "Steel Century Two" ^("Construction 73") in a small ceremony attended by Museum and Institute officials. The 8 1/2 foot high stainless steel arc was commissioned by the Institute to mark the beginning of the second century of steel production in the United States. He will say: "In its very shape and fluid form -- seeking, soaring and evolving -- the sculpture is a reminder to the steel industry and to the public of the challenges ahead and the avenues of progress yet to be explored....Through the auspices of this great museum, we will now be able to share our enjoyment with many thousands of people for years to come. As chairman of American Iron and Steel Institute, I present this work to you, Mr. Paley, with the hope that all who see it will enjoy it as we have."

As Mr. Paley accepts the gift he will signal to the electricians who will start the underwater motor which enables the piece to revolve slowly in the reflecting pool.

The pedestal on which the sculpture turns is made of a mixture of steel from a hundred steel plants in this country, Canada and Latin America. On September 14, 1964, 100 years after the first successful commercial heat of bessemer steel flowed from a small converter in Michigan, a molten sample was withdrawn from heats of steel in mills in the Western Hemisphere and then set apart to be remelted and mingled for use in the pedestal casting.

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The work was commissioned by a committee of judges consisting of Leigh B. Block, Vice-President, Inland Steel, who served as Chairman; David Rockefeller, Chairman, Chase Manhattan Bank and Chairman, Board of Trustees of The Museum of Modern Art; John I. H. Baur, Associate Director, Whitney Museum; William C. Seitz, former Curator, Painting and Sculpture Exhibitions, The Museum of Modern Art; and Andrew C. Ritchie, Director, Yale Art Museum.

Prominent sculptors were invited to submit models. On January 8, 1965, the \$25,000 commission was awarded to José de Rivera.

The sculpture, executed in polished stainless steel, is an open curve formed by a cylinder of varying diameter. It rotates slowly on a vertical axis on a steel pedestal concealing an electric motor. The total diameter embraced by rotation is 11 feet, 8 inches.

The Museum of Modern Art also owns de Rivera's Construction 8 (1954), a stainless steel forged rod given to the collection in 1955. De Rivera's work is also represented in collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, the City Art Museum of St. Louis, the San Francisco Museum of Art and the Annenberg Foundation in Philadelphia. In 1956, eight pieces were shown in 12 AMERICANS group show at The Museum of Modern Art. José de Rivera was born in West Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1904. Self-taught, he has been working as a sculptor since 1930.

Present at the ceremony will be:

L. B. Worthington, Chairman, American Iron and Steel Institute and President, United States Steel Corporation who will make the presentation.

John P. Roche, President, American Iron and Steel Institute.

George S. Rose, Vice-President, American Iron and Steel Institute.

Leigh B. Block, Chairman, AISI Sculpture Award Panel and Vice-President, Inland Steel Company.

Grace Borgenicht, representing the artist who is abroad.

William S. Paley, Vice-Chairman, Board of Trustees, The Museum of Modern Art, who will accept the sculpture.

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Mrs. Bliss Parkinson, President, The Museum of Modern Art -
Member, Collections Committee, The Museum of Modern
Art.

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd, Trustee, The Museum of Modern Art -
Member, Collections Committee, The Museum
of Modern Art.

Dorothy Miller, Curator, Collections, The Museum of Modern Art.

René d'Harnoncourt, Director, The Museum of Modern Art.

Photographs and additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director,
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