CHRISTOPHER WILMARTH

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Organized by Laura Rosenstock, Assistant Curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art.

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California-born Christopher Wilmarth (1943-87) came to New York at the age of seventeen, where he sought to evoke in his sculpture the character of light and shadow integral to the city's water and sky. Employing glass in combination with other materials, he created works remarkable in their ability to suggest poetic, humanistic content through an austerely constructivist, geometric idiom.

This first in-depth presentation in a major museum of work by Wilmarth includes twenty-five sculptures drawn from various collections including the artist's estate. The exhibition also includes fifteen drawings from the estate, many of which have never before been exhibited.

The exhibition centers primarily on Wilmarth's glass and steel constructions of the seventies, notable for their fusion of fragility and strength. The artist combined translucent planes of etched glass, which admit and diffuse a luminous greenish light, with cut and bent plates of dark, shadowy steel, investing his sculptures with a haunting, lyrical presence. A selection of later pieces, which merge figurative ovoids with abstract forms, is included. Created shortly before the artist's death, a series of powerful and moving drawings also contain allusions to the human presence.


For further information, contact the Department of Public Information, 212/708-9750.