

JOHN HENRY

CONSTRUCTIVIST DIALOGUE

Internationally acclaimed artist John Henry returns to Callan Contemporary with a solo exhibition of painted aluminum sculptures, a medium whose boundaries he has consistently expanded and transcended over the course of a long and distinguished career. Exquisitely complex in composition and executed with exacting perfectionism, Henry's sculptures command space with an authority and élan that harkens to their Constructivist lineage. A pioneer in the realm of monumental sculpture and public art, he is renowned for his wide and ambitious range in composition and scale, with works encompassing a spectrum from intimately-sized tabletop pieces to some of the largest metal sculptures ever created. His 101-foot-tall, 60-ton masterpiece in downtown Dallas, "Tatlin's Sentinel," embodies the merging of aesthetic exhilaration, intricate design, and sheer engineering prowess that have established this artist as an envelope-pushing visionary in his field.

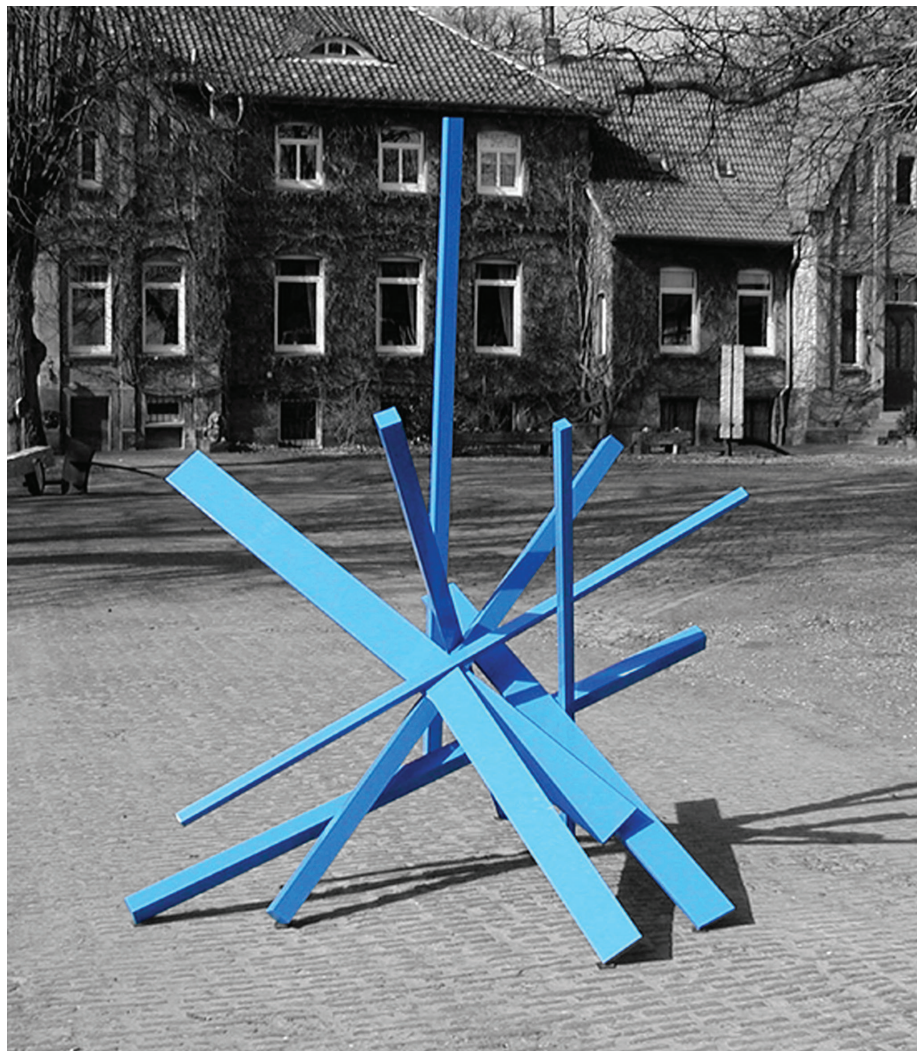
Born in Kentucky, widely traveled, now based in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Henry is a graduate of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His works are included in the permanent collections of The British Museum (London), Smithsonian Institution and Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.), Museum of Contemporary Art (Chicago), Dallas Museum of Art, Fort Worth Art Museum, and Miami Art Museum, among dozens of other museum, corporate, and private collections. In Chicago during the late 1970s, he and a group of peers co-founded ConStruct Gallery, an influential catalyst for contemporary sculpture and traveling exhibitions for over a decade. Henry has also served in various capacities as an educator, curator, and board member of arts-oriented nonprofits and advisory councils, among them the International Sculpture Center and the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. Honored with grants and fellowships from The Ford Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts, he has received important commissions for outdoor projects, which enliven public space with dynamic rhythms of line, plane, and color. He is the founder of Sculpture Fields at Montague Park, a 33-acre sculpture park in Chattanooga that showcases works by some of the world's best-known sculptors.

Henry is inspired by the largely hidden structures that undergird the built urban environment. The suggestions of ascent or expansion inherent in his architectonic forms reference the ways in which shapes come together in space in the postmodern metropolis. Working within a set of overarching formal parameters, he achieves an array of spatial effects in pedestal-mounted and freestanding pieces, as well as wall sculptures—exploring interactions between balance and asymmetry, bold forms and delicate passagework, clusters of intricate shapes and long, lithe lines. He challenges viewers' assumptions about gravity in compositions that have an ascertainable structural logic, even when the component parts bedazzle the eye with the illusion of physical impossibility. "In recent years I have begun making the connectors within the sculptures more obscure," he notes, "but the formal structure of the elements, the way they fit together, is a suggestion of the solidity of the form. The structure makes sense."

Richard Speer

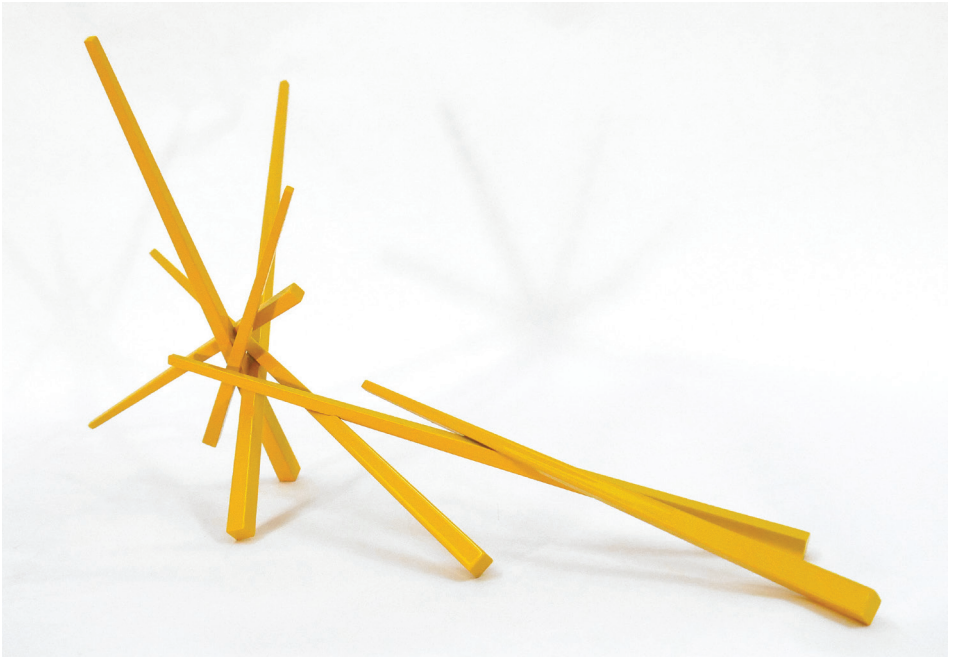
EXHIBITION DATES: MAY 3rd - JUNE 30th, 2018

RECEPTION: MAY 5th 6–9 PM



Blue Rhapsody, aluminum painted blue, 8' x 7' x 4'

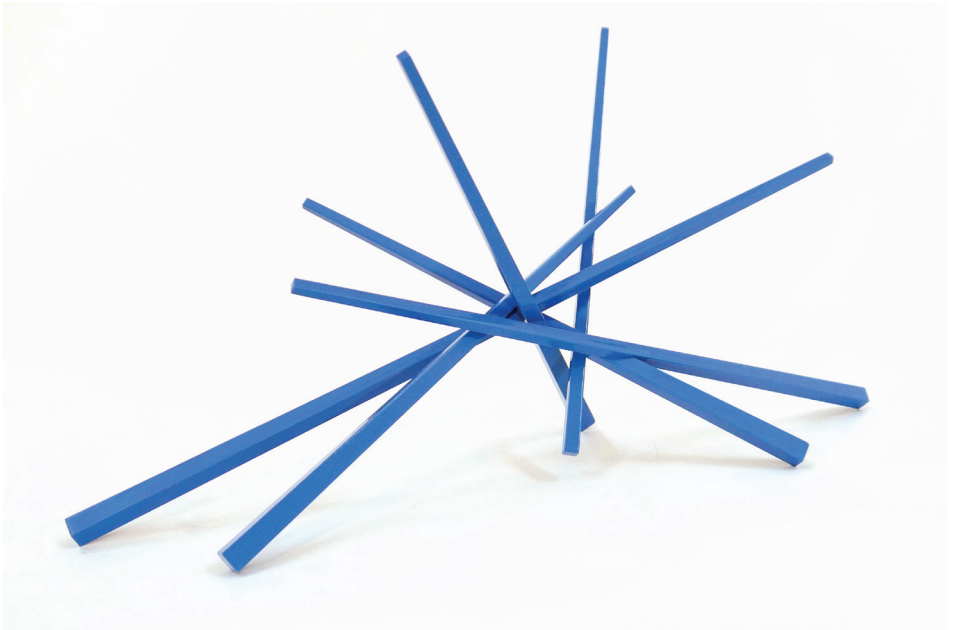
Front Cover: *Tatlin's Sentinel*, painted steel, 101' x 45' x 40'
Hall Financial Group, KPMG Plaza, Dallas, Texas
Photography © Michael Samples



Left: *Perched Cloud*, aluminum painted yellow, 8" x 15" x 6"

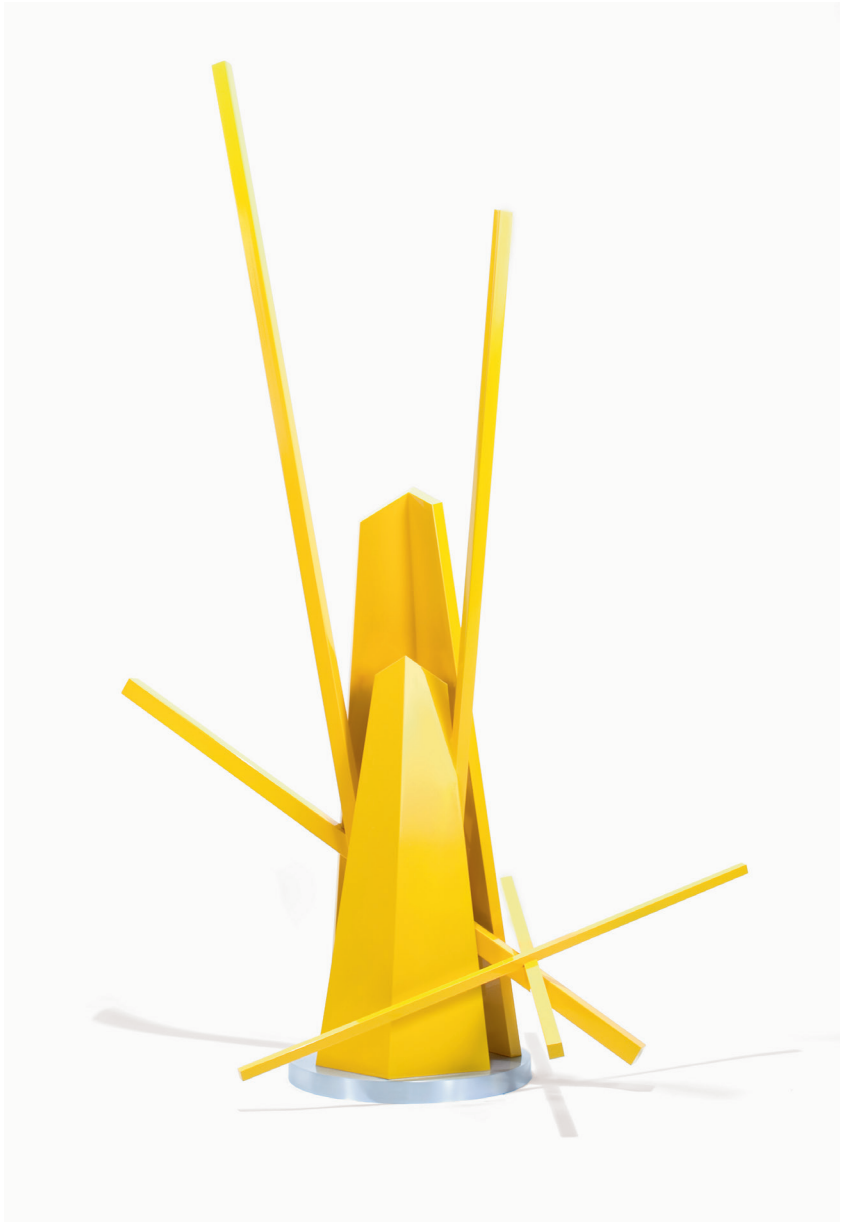
Right: *Le Mont Rouge Model*, aluminum painted red, 25" x 15" x 11", edition 1/2





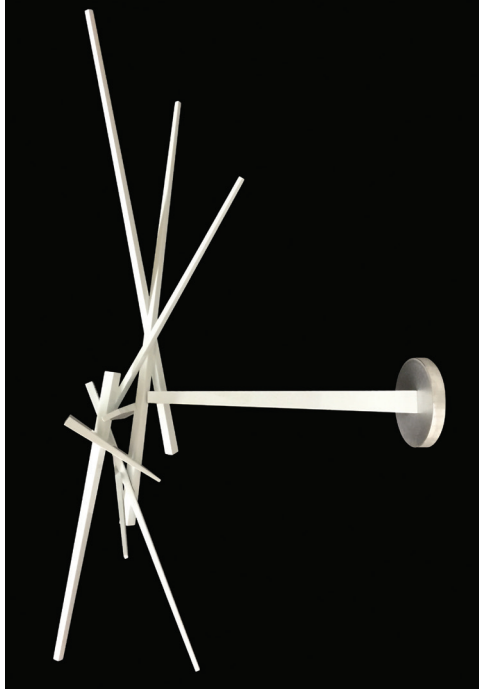
Left: *Unattended Cloud*, aluminum painted blue, 8" x 15 3/8 x 6"

Right: *Chevron Series A*, aluminum painted yellow, 34 3/4" x 30" x 21 1/2", Ed. 5/6



CALLAN CONTEMPORARY

518 Julia Street | New Orleans, LA 70130



Petit Floating Cloud, aluminum painted white, 18 1/4" x 25" x 8"

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