

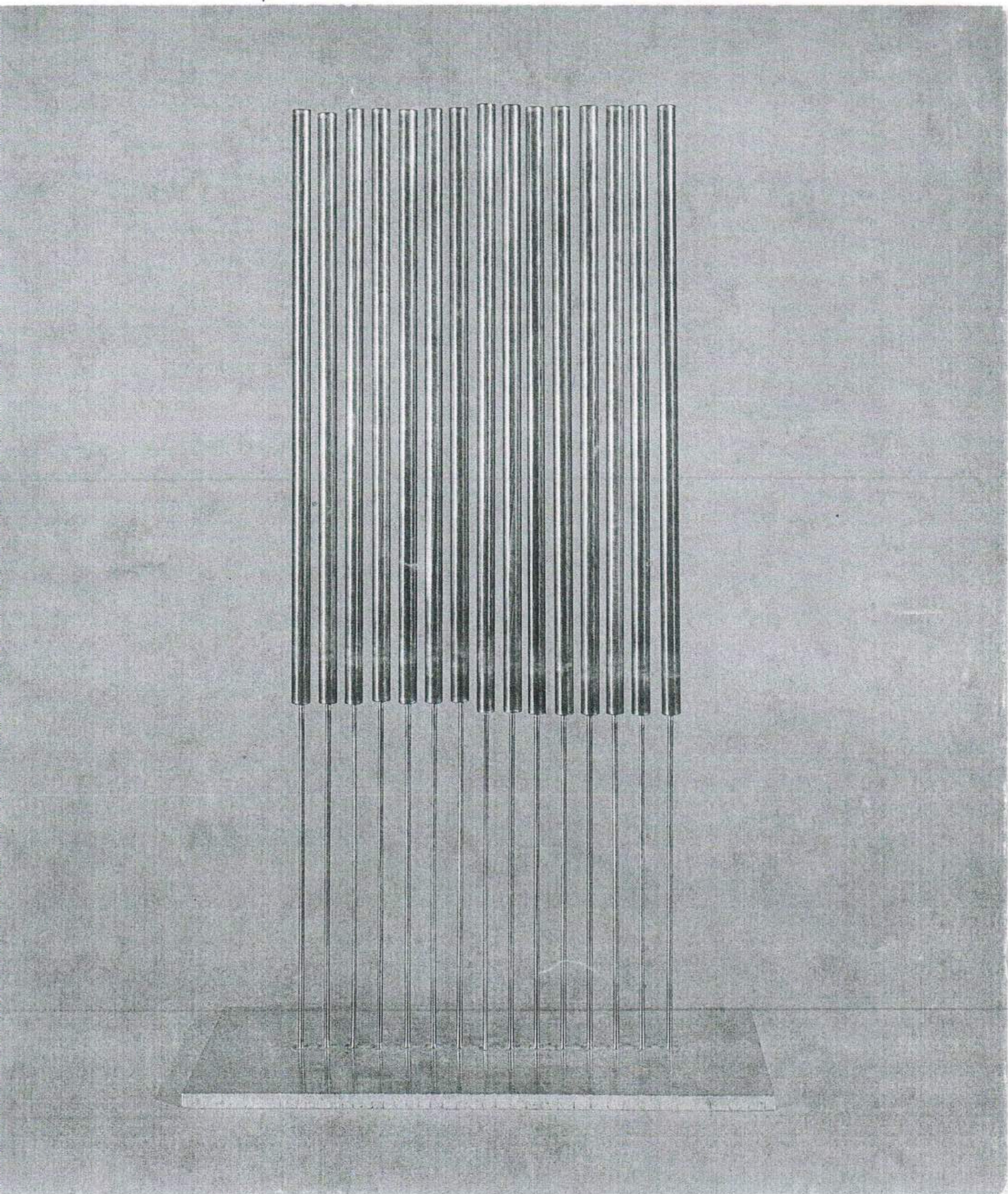
# HARRY BERTOIA

Recent Sculptures

October 17 to November 11, 1978

**STAEMPFLI**

47 East 77 Street, New York  
212/535-1919



# Reflections

I did not start with a written credo or manifesto. Nor was there a program to be followed. It all came about very slowly. School days exposed me to the hows more than to the whys or the whats.

Encounters with the work of others were stimulants to broader vistas. Childhood memories, mostly happy ones, persisted. Nature as an influence, always strong.

Companionship, love and family, a measure of fulfillment. Social contact and hours of solitude, all ingredients in the process of one's growth.

Enthusiastic beginnings and recognition of failures marking a long quest to seek and sometimes find a form, a structure, a sound or a way. A find that would tend to make me feel what I am or one that would cause a change in me, would simply deepen the mystery.

Facing a problem, yes. Solving it, more often than not, would prove evanescent.

The acceptance of the reality of the dream as a stimulant and propellant toward achieving the other reality generated an atmosphere of involvement rather than passivity. Immersion into the vast recesses of the mind leading to the realization that this inner world is as immense as the cosmos outside...

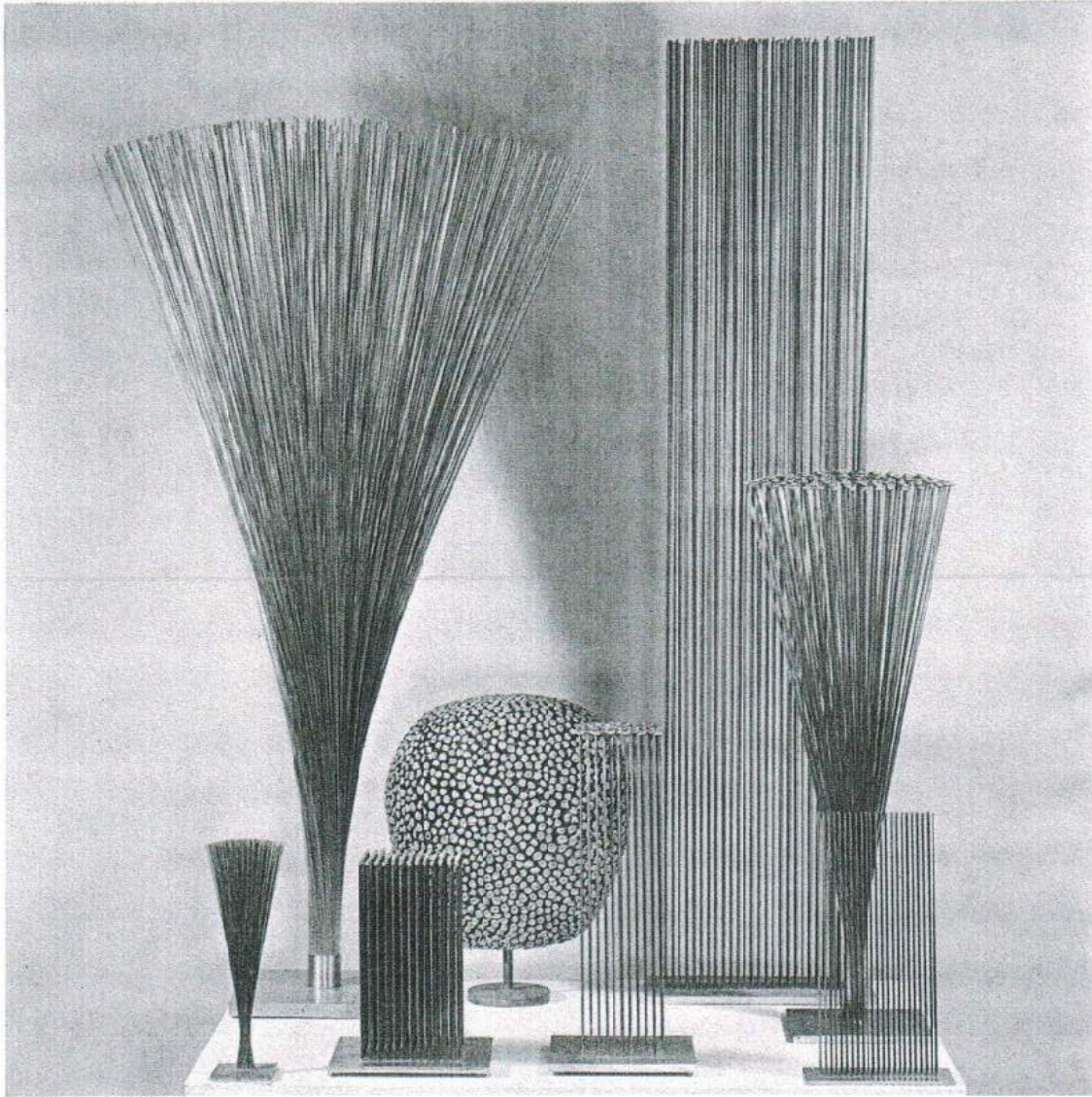
At this eternal moment, I have a gut feeling that awareness of the miracle of life is the purpose of life.

I might never know ...

Harry Bertoia



Harry Bertoia in his studio in July 1978. Photograph by George W. Staempfli



From a Bertoia Exhibition at Staempfli Gallery in 1972

# Chronology

- 1915 Born in San Lorenzo, Italy
- 1930–36 Came to United States, lived with brother in Detroit. Attended Cass Technical Highschool, Detroit, and Detroit School of Arts and Crafts
- 1936–38 Scholarship award to Cranbrook Academy, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
- 1938 Taught metal crafts at Cranbrook
- 1942 Married Brigitte Valentiner
- 1943–47 Exhibited graphics and jewelry in New York and San Francisco. Moved to California. Collaborated with Charles Eames on chair design
- 1946 U. S. Citizen
- 1950 Moved to Bally, Pa.
- 1952 Designed Bertoia Chair for Knoll Associates
- 1953 Commission: Sculpture screen for General Motors Technical Center, Detroit, Mich.; Eero Saarinen, Architect
- 1954 Commission: Sculpture screen for Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co., New York; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Architects  
Awarded Gold Medal of Architectural League of New York City for this screen
- 1955 Commission: Altar curtain in Chapel in Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.; Eero Saarinen, Architect
- 1957 Received Graham Foundation Fellowship for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, Chicago, Illinois  
Commission: Two large sculptures for U. S. Pavilion at Expo 58, Brussels
- 1961 First New York one-man show at Staempfli Gallery
- 1962 Received R. S. Reynolds Memorial Award  
Commission: Sphere and Screen for Denver Hilton Hotel, Denver, Col.  
Commission: "Sunburst", for Bankers Trust Co. Building, New York; Henry Dreyfus and Associates, Architects
- 1963 Commission: Large bronze mural for Dulles International Airport, Washington, D.C.; Eero Saarinen and Kevin Roche, Architects  
Second one-man show at Staempfli Gallery, New York
- 1964 Commission: "Globe", for the Woodrow Wilson International Affairs Center, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.  
Commission: "Sunlit Straw", brass mural for Northwestern National Life Insurance Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Minoru Yamasaki, Architect
- 1967 Commission: Sculpture screen for the Brooklyn, N.Y. Federal Court Building; Carson, Lundin & Shaw and Lorimer Rich, Architects  
Commission: Fountain for Philadelphia Civic Center, Philadelphia, Pa.; Edward D. Stone and Davis, Pool & Sloan, Architects
- 1968 Third one-man show at Staempfli Gallery, New York  
Commission: Fountain sculpture for Manufacturers and Traders Trust Building, Buffalo, N.Y.; Minoru Yamasaki, Architect
- 1969 Commission: Suspended Ceiling Sculpture for lobby of Seattle First National Bank, Seattle, Washington
- 1970 Fourth one-man show at Staempfli Gallery, New York  
Commission: Suspended Ceiling Sculpture for Genesee Valley Shopping Center, Flint, Mich.
- 1972 Fifth one-man show at Staempfli Gallery, New York
- 1973 Received Gold Medal from American Institute of Architects  
Commission: "Memorial Fountain", for Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia
- 1974 Commission: Woodcarb Christ Memorial, Wichita, Kansas  
Commission: Fountain Sculpture for Standard Oil Plaza, Chicago, Illinois; Edward D. Stone, Architect
- 1975 Received Academy Institute Award from American Academy of Arts and Letters
- 1976 Sixth one-man show at Staempfli Gallery, New York
- 1977 One-man exhibition at Galeri K. B., Oslo, Norway
- 1978 Commission: Sounding Sculpture for Federal Reserve Bank Building of Virginia, Richmond, Va.  
Seventh one-man show at Staempfli Gallery, New York

Cover: Sounding Sculpture, 1978, 16" high  
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