

Exhibition Celebrates African American Sculptor

One of America's most internationally respected sculptors receives his first, major retrospective exhibition Melvin Edwards Sculpture: A Thirty-Year Retrospective 1963-1993, at the Neuberger Museum of Art, State University of New York at Purchase, 4 April - 27 June 1993.

One hundred thirty powerful metal sculptures by African American artist Melvin Edwards are presented in this extensive retrospective exhibition spanning 30 years of the artist's work. Examples from his series of "Lynch Fragments" and "Rockers, as well as pedestal pieces and large-scale outdoor works comprise this dramatic installation which simultaneously communicates the '60s rage against oppression, the strength found in unity and the hope for the future. Edwards creates works that are drawn from his memory and his history -- personal and public.

A final insight into all of Melvin Edwards' work is glimpsed in many of the titles of the pieces. Edwards has often traveled to Africa for inspiration and, indicative of the impact of his travels, he sometimes uses African words and phrases for his titles. Connected to the sculptures in this way, the African titles convey a cultural pride and serve to teach young and old of a heritage that should not be forgotten.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Neuberger Museum of Art presents the evening lecture program, Dialogues, on Thursday, 13 May 1993 at 7:30 pm. Dialogues, an informal adult lecture series, offers thematic discussion pertaining to specific exhibitions. Thursday night's program, "A Conversation with Melvin Edwards," features artist Melvin Edwards and art critic Michael Brenson in a discussion of Edwards' career and art. A question and answer period and exhibition tour complete the program. Admission is a requested donation.