

Len Lye

Tangibles: 1963 – 1969

8 May 2021 – 25 July 2021

Tangibles: 1963–1969 is the second of two exhibitions presenting a chronological overview of Len Lye's kinetic sculpture.

Acclaimed for his experimental cinema from the 1930s through to the 1950s, Len Lye largely abandoned filmmaking at the close of the 1950s to join a thriving kinetic art scene. With his self-proclaimed “maverick” approach to kinetic sculpture, he stood apart from sculptors working with motion like Alexander Calder and George Rickey. Lye referred to himself as a “composer of motion” rather than a “kinetic sculptor” and with work that emphasised not the material or physical body of sculpture but a visualisation of movement.

Lye's “tangible motion sculpture” received critical acclaim in the 1960s American art scene through the exhibitions *Bounding Steel Sculpture*, *On the Move* and *Kinaesthetics* with his New York dealer Howard Wise Gallery and in group exhibitions such as *Kinetic and Optic Art Today* (Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo), *Sound, Light, and Silence* (Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City) and *American Sculpture of the Sixties* (LACMA, Philadelphia Museum of Art).

Lye was most triumphant in *Directions in Kinetic Sculpture* at the University of California, Berkeley where his *Flip and Two Twisters* received acclaim ten years before he revisited the work on a larger scale for the Govett-Brewster Art Gallery.

Tangibles: 1963–1969 presents original and reconstructed works from this important phase of Lye's career.

Paul Brobbel, Len Lye Curator
Emma Glučina, Len Lye Curatorial Assistant

Ko *Tangibles: 1963-1969* te tuarua o ngā whakaaturanga e rua e pā ana ki te whakapapa o ngā tāreitanga nekeneke a Len Lye.

I rongonui a ia i hāna mahi raweke kiriata mai i ngā tau o te 1930 ki ngā tau o te 1950, ā, ka parea e Len Lye ngā mahi hanga kiriata i te kotinga o ngā tau o te 1950 ki te piri atu ki te takiwā toi nekeneke. I tū tahanga atu a ia i ngā kaitārei nekeneke pērā i a Alexandra Calder rāua ko George Rickey, he kaha nōna ki te whakapakari i te i a ia anō ki te tikanga nei. I huaina e ia anō koia 'te kaiwhakanekeneke', ehara kē i te 'kaitārei nekeneke', me te aha ka aro pū ki te āhua o te nekeneke, kua ki te whakatinanatanga noa iho.

Ka puta te rongo o tā Lye tāreitanga nekeneke ā-ringa i ngā tau o te 1960 i te takiwā toi o Amerika e kīia ana ko *Bounding Steel Sculpture*, ko *On the Move* me *Kinaesthetics*, i tōna whare i Te Āporo Nui e kīia ana ko Howard Wise Gallery, i roto hoki i ngā whakaaturanga ā-rōpū pērā i *Kinetic and Optic Art Today* (i Albright-Knox Art Gallery, i Buffalo), i *Sound, Light, and Silence* (i Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City) i *American Sculpture of the Sixties* hoki (i LACMA, Philadelphia Museum of Art).

I eke kairangi a Lye i tana whakaaturanga *Directions in Kinetic Sculpture* i tū ki te Whare Wānanga o Karepōnia, i Berkeley, i rongonui ai tana tāreitanga *Flip and Two Twisters* tekau tau i mua i tana hoki anō ki te whakanui i te taonga nei mō te whare pīataata o Govett-Brewster.

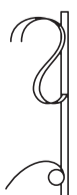
He kohinga mahi tawhito, he kohinga mahi hōu hoki ka kitea i te whakaaturanga nei, e kīia ana ko *Tangibles: 1963-1969*.

Paul Brobbel, Kaitakatū o Len Lye
Emma Glučina, Kaitakatū Hāpai o Len Lye.

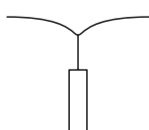
THE *Len Lye* FOUNDATION



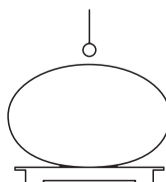
Len Lye with rings 1959
Courtesy Len Lye Foundation
Collection Govett-Brewster
Art Gallery



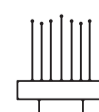
Storm King
1964 (1997 reconstruction)



Albatross
1965 (2015 reconstruction)



Universe
1963 - 1976 (1998 reconstruction)



Witch Dance
1965 (2016 reconstruction)



Moonbead
1968 (2007 reconstruction)