



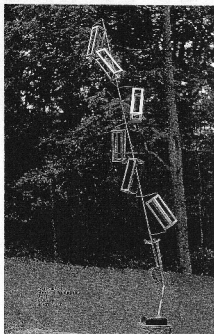
GEORGE RICKEY, RENOWN KINETIC SCULPTOR



George Warren Rickey

If we turn to "WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA" and other like publications, several distinguished RICKEYS can be found. One such is **GEORGE WARREN RICKEY**, an internationally renowned kinetic sculptor, whose highly polished stainless steel mobiles can be found as permanent structures in public spaces in Fort Worth, New Orleans, Cleveland, Atlanta, Toronto, Tokyo, Osaka, Berlin, London, Rotterdam and exhibits in other cities too numerous to relate. Your editor first saw one of his magnificent works gracing the grounds of the Prince Jonah Kahanianiole Kuhio Federal Building in Honolulu, HI. Another is his 45-foot high moving sculpture that stands, or rather moves, at the Fifth St entrance of the Central Trust Center in downtown Cincinnati.

A "TIME" magazine article of 4 Nov 1960 stated: "...a current exhibition of 75 of his works in the Washington (DC) Corcoran Gallery of Art...supplies a freedom of movement that is a mighty concept of harmonious motion, giving art another dimension...".



Six Parallelepipeds...1988

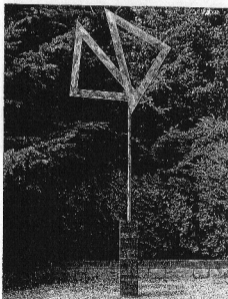
His exquisitely engineered geometric creations of stainless steel are infinitely delicate in design. They constantly change form in response to currents of air. They swoop and sway, alive with apparently mysterious movement. They move because of their precisely tuned balances and hinged counterbalances, and they are propelled only by the wind. Cousin **GEORGE RICKEY** is this country's foremost and best known maker of kinetic sculpture -- art in motion. He once said: "I want the whole range of movement itself performing in a world of its own".

GEORGE WARREN RICKEY, artist, author, educator and sculptor, was born 6 June 1907 in South Bend, IN to **WALTER JOSIAH RICKEY** (b. 7 Jan 1871, Athol, Worcester Co, MA - d. 21 May 1935, Neuilly, France) & **GRACE LANDON**. He married **EDITH LEIGHTON** on 24 May 1947. His second wife is **SUSAN LUHRS**. Cousin **GEORGE** has two children, **STUART ROSS RICKEY** (b. 1953, Bloomington, Monroe Co, IN) and **PHILLIP JULIAN LEIGHTON RICKEY** (b. 1959, New Orleans, Orleans Par, LA). The latter is married to **MARY SULLIVAN** and they have a son, **OWEN JAMES SULLIVAN RICKEY** (b. 1990). Their ancestry has been traced back to **ROBERT RICKEY** (b. 1746), a revolutionary minuteman soldier from Massachusetts, and **TABITHA SCOVILL**.

As a boy, **GEORGE** was gifted with a strong mechanical bent, perhaps inherited from his grandfather, another **GEORGE WARREN RICKEY** (b. 24 Sep 1834, Barre, Worcester Co, MA), who was a clockmaker in Athol, MA, and his father, **WALTER**, who was sent to Scotland to manage the Singer Sewing Machine factory in Clydebank. Young **GEORGE** took a BA degree at Balliol College in Oxford, England in 1929, where he also attended the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art; later receiving an MA from Balliol in 1941. Upon returning to the USA in 1930, he continued painting while teaching history at Groton School, CT. Later he held various positions as Artist-In-Residence, Professor and Department Head at Kalamazoo, MI Institute of Arts; Knox College, Galesburg, IL; Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA; Indiana University at Bloomington; Tulane University,

New Orleans, LA; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY; Dartmouth College, MA; and the University of California at Santa Barbara.

In World War II, **GEORGE** served three years in the US Army Air Corps. Sergeant **RICKEY** taught the use and maintenance of remote-controlled gun turrets in B-29 bombers. Surrounded by servos and selsyus, he made his first moving sculpture. Unlike Alexander Calder's mobiles with stems and leaves, Rickey's relate to wheels and other mechanical forms. In the 1950's he made a series of sculptures called *Little Machines of Unconceived Use*, whose metal surfaces traveled in interpenetrating orbits on pivots within pivots within pivots. His art later evolved into the magnificent structures that have made him world famous.



At his workshop studio in East Chatham, NY, Cousin **GEORGE** is still busy with pliers, welding torch, sheet metal cutters and burnishing tools. There he has produced whole families of curiously moving metal sculptures that gambol and gimbel in the wind, slicing segments of time like pendulums, or spinning until the sunlight splinters into a spectral blur.