

# SUSAN SHEEHAN GALLERY

## **David Smith**

### Biography

David Smith was born on March 9, 1906 in Decatur, Indiana and spent most of his early life in the Midwest. In 1926, he moved to New York and began taking classes at the Art Students League of New York where he came into contact with work by the Russian Constructivists as well as Picasso Both would later prove to be artistic influences. Throughout the 1930s, Smith was limited in his artistic output by the Great Depression and often took jobs working for the Works Progress Administration. During the Second World War, he was briefly paused creating art, to work as a welder and a part time teacher. By 1945-46, Smith was finally able to release his pent up artistic energy and produced a large amount of artworks. A 1950 Guggenheim grant allowed him to work with stainless steel for the first time.

Smith's work was revolutionary as it was the first to truly adapt subjects that had long been deemed only suitable for painting and translate it into sculpture. He was the first to create sculptures of landscapes and still lifes. Eventually, his work grew more abstract with the 1950s "Cubi" series, which was strongly influenced by Cubist techniques. His work also took on a massive scale, with some sculptures being almost 13 feet tall. Equally as important to the artist were his paintings, drawings, and prints, and he was prolific in all of these areas. The artist died in 1965, however had already had several solo exhibitions at major galleries and museums. His work continues to be highly sought after and can be found in major private and public collections.