



Robert Indiana, *LOVE*, 1966–2000, Red Red,
polychrome aluminium, 18 x 18 x 9 in / 45.7 x 45.7 x 22.9 cm ,
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Robert Indiana: Sculptures

3 October to 10 November 2012

Private view: Wednesday 3 October, 6–8pm

Waddington Custot Galleries presents an exhibition of works by Robert Indiana, one of the fathers of American twentieth-century art. This exhibition spans five decades of his work and covers five themes within Indiana's sculptural canon, including *LOVE*, *EAT*, *ART* and *NUMBERS*, and one Peace painting.

Indiana has always used universal subjects, spelling out words which indicate the work's core meaning. The sculptures can be read as a comment on American culture, and works like the *LOVE* series and 'The Four Diamond Peace Diamond' question the Vietnam war and the later activities in Iraq and Afghanistan.

However, Indiana's sculptures reveal personal narratives within their sign-like appearance; Indiana's earliest work on display here, 'The Electric *EAT*', 1964, refers to the last word his mother said to him before she died, and his fascination with numbers stems from the road signs of his home state Indiana and from the various houses he lived in as a child.

The significance behind the simple form of these works is not always personal: the colours used in 'ONE through ZERO (The Ten Numbers)' are a re-interpretation of 'The Life and Age of Man: Stages of Man's life from the cradle to the grave', a mid-nineteenth century lithograph by Nathaniel Currier. Each coloured number represents a human stage from birth and infancy to the prime of life and through to death.

Taken as a whole this exhibition provides a comprehensive overview of Indiana's key sculptures since the 1960s.

An illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition.

Biography

Robert Indiana was born in New Castle, Indiana, in 1928. His family name was Clark which he later changed, taking the name of his home state. After studying at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Indiana moved to New York where he quickly made a name for himself.

In 1961 the Museum of Modern Art, New York, acquired a painting, and in 1966 his 'LOVE show' opened at the Stable Gallery, the start of a long association with the LOVE image which has been realised in many different media. In 1966 he had exhibitions in the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, the Museum Haus Lange, Krefeld and the Württembergische Kunstverein, Stuttgart. He was represented at the Documenta, Kassel (1968). In 1998 a retrospective exhibition opened at the Musée d'art moderne et d'art contemporain, in Nice.

Indiana lives at Star of Hope Lodge in Vinalhaven, Maine.

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Monday to Friday: 10am - 6pm
Saturday: 10am - 1:30pm