

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WAM contact: Erin Lauderman, 612.625.9685, elauderm@umn.edu

Securian contact: Maggie Jensen, 651.665.7558, Margaret.jensen@securian.com

WEISMAN ART MUSEUM TO INSTALL LARGE TONY SMITH SCULPTURE *ONE, TWO, THREE* OUTSIDE OF THE MCNAMARA ALUMNI CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS – The Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota is pleased to announce Tony Smith's large steel sculpture *One, Two, Three* will be installed November 24, 2014 on the Gateway Plaza in front of the McNamara Alumni Center. Smith, an internationally known American artist, created the sculpture 35 years ago. It is made up of three separate pieces (4 x 9 feet, 9 x 9 feet, and 14 x 14 feet).

Securian Financial Group donated *One, Two, Three* to the University in January 2014. Securian commissioned the artwork in 1979 for display in its then-new headquarters, which was under construction at the time in downtown St. Paul. The sculpture's new home on the Twin Cities campus of the University will make it visible to thousands of people every day.

Restoration of the artwork began shortly after it was removed from Securian's headquarters. The sculpture had to be prepared for its new outdoor location. After the surface was cleaned, the metal needed several coatings of paint to protect it from environmental elements such as moisture, salt, and chemicals. Consulting with Smith's studio, a paint specialist researched the appropriate paint and ensured the careful application to reflect Smith's original design.

One, Two, Three was completed shortly before Smith's death in 1980 and he is considered one of the most influential Minimalist sculptors of his generation. "The University of Minnesota Foundation and McNamara Alumni Center are delighted to provide a home for this important work of contemporary art," said Kathy Schmidlkofer, president and CEO of the foundation. "Securian's generous gift will be placed so as to echo the artist's idea of 'continuance,' where each individual work is derived from the previous one. A fitting notion for a community dedicated to discovery."

The piece will join the robust collection of public art at the University of Minnesota. More than fifty art works are viewable every day across the East Bank, West Bank and St. Paul campus.

ABOUT TONY SMITH

Tony Smith (1912-1980) was born in South Orange, New Jersey. A leading figure of American Minimalism, his work has been the subject of major solo exhibitions at prestigious museums including a retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art, New York in 1998. His work is in the permanent collections of the foremost institutions in the world including National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Menil Collection, Houston; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and the Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, Otterloo, The Netherlands.

ABOUT WAM

Since its origin in 1934, the Weisman Art Museum has been a teaching museum for the University of Minnesota. Today, education remains central to the museum's mission to create art experiences that spark discovery, critical thinking, and transformation, linking the University and the community. The Weisman Art Museum is located at 333 East River Road, Minneapolis, on the University of Minnesota campus. Admission to exhibition galleries is always free.

###