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ARTIST

Keith Haring (1958-1990)

TITLE

Untitled (Red Arching Figure)

MEDIUM

Steel and enamel

DATE

1985

SIZE

38 x 50 x 30 in : 96.5 x 127.0 x 76.2 cm

PROVENANCE

Kenny Scharf, New York, acquired directly from the artist in 1985

Private Collection, New York

Martos Gallery, New York

Private Collection, Europe

**EXHIBITED**

Keith Haring, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York, United States, 1985

Keith Haring, Kagan-Martos Gallery, New York, United States, 2003

Keith Haring Drawings, Alona Kagan Gallery, New York, United States, May 8 – June 30, 2006
The Keith Haring Show, La Triennale di Milano, Italy, September 27, 2005 – January 29, 2006

Keith Haring, Galerie Laurent Strouk, Paris, France, 2008

Keith Haring Retrospective, Museum of Contemporary Art, Lyon, France, February 22 - June 29, 2008

Keith Haring All-Over, BAM (Beaux-Arts Mons) and Anciens Abattoirs, Mons, Belgium, May 9 - September 13, 2009

Keith Haring - The Political Line, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, April 13-Aug 18, 2013, and travelling to deYoung Museum, San Francisco, CA, November 8, 2014 - February 16, 2015; Kunsthalle der Hypo-Kulturstiftung, Munich, May 1-Aug 30, 2015; Kunsthalle Rotterdam, Sept 19, 2015 - February 8, 2016

LITERATURE

Mercurio, Gianni, and Demetrio Papparoni, (eds.) The Keith Haring Show. Milan: Skira Editore, 2005, p. 362. (illus.) Mercurio, Gianni, (ed.) Keith Haring. Milan: Skira Editore in conjunction with Musée de l'art contemporain de Lyon, 2008, p.321 (illus.) Mercurio, Gianni, (ed.) Keith Haring All-Over. Milan: Skira Editore in conjunction with BAM (Beaux-Arts Mons), 2009, p.267 (illus.) Buchhart, Dieter, et al. Keith Haring - The Political Line. Paris: Paris-Musées, les musée de la Ville de Paris, 2013, p.141 (illus.) Buchhart, Dieter, (ed.) Keith Haring - The Political Line. San Francisco: Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco in conjunction with DelMonic Books and Prestel, 2014, p.202 (illus.) Buchhart, Dieter and Roger Diederer, (eds.) Keith Haring - Gegen den Strich. Munich: Prestel Verlag, 2015, p.141 (illus.)

Untitled (Red Arching Figure) is a unique metal sculpture by Keith Haring, made for his exhibition with the great gallerist Leo Castelli in New York in 1985. It was subsequently purchased by the artist Kenny Scharf, remaining in his collection for many years. The arching figure depicts a boy breakdancing and extends the artist's practice by bringing scenes from the street indoors. It was one of the first such sculptures to be made by the artist during the period 1985-1989.



Photograph of installation at *Keith Haring – The Political Line*, Kunsthal Rotterdam, the Netherlands, September 19, 2015 – February 8, 2016

Keith Haring

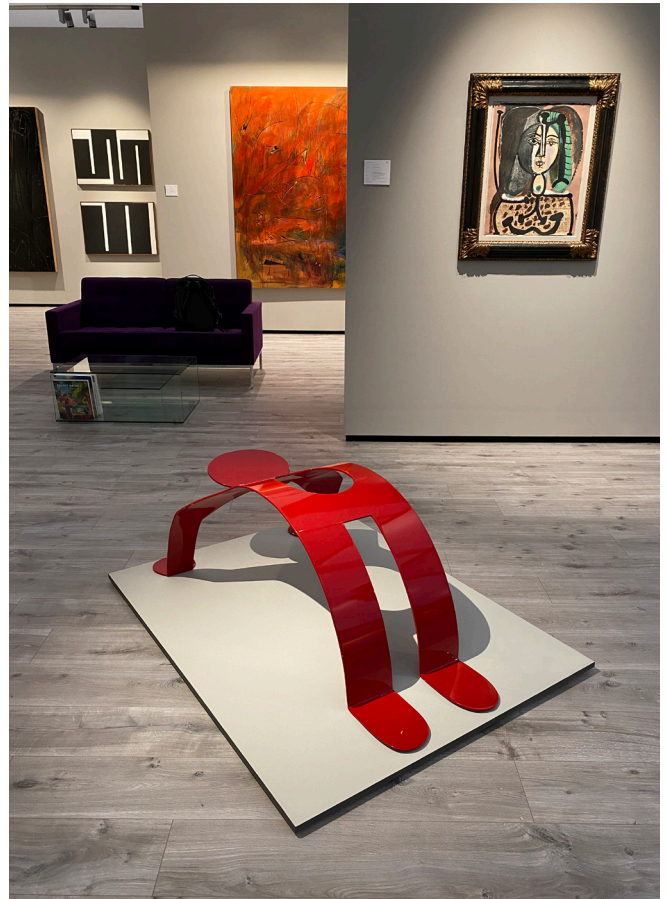
Keith Haring was an American artist, active in the 1980s in New York, who is considered to be the first 'street artist' in the sense that is now more widely understood. Haring used a visual language composed of outlined intertwining figures, objects and animals, in his graffiti and street works, often to express deeply held political and social beliefs.

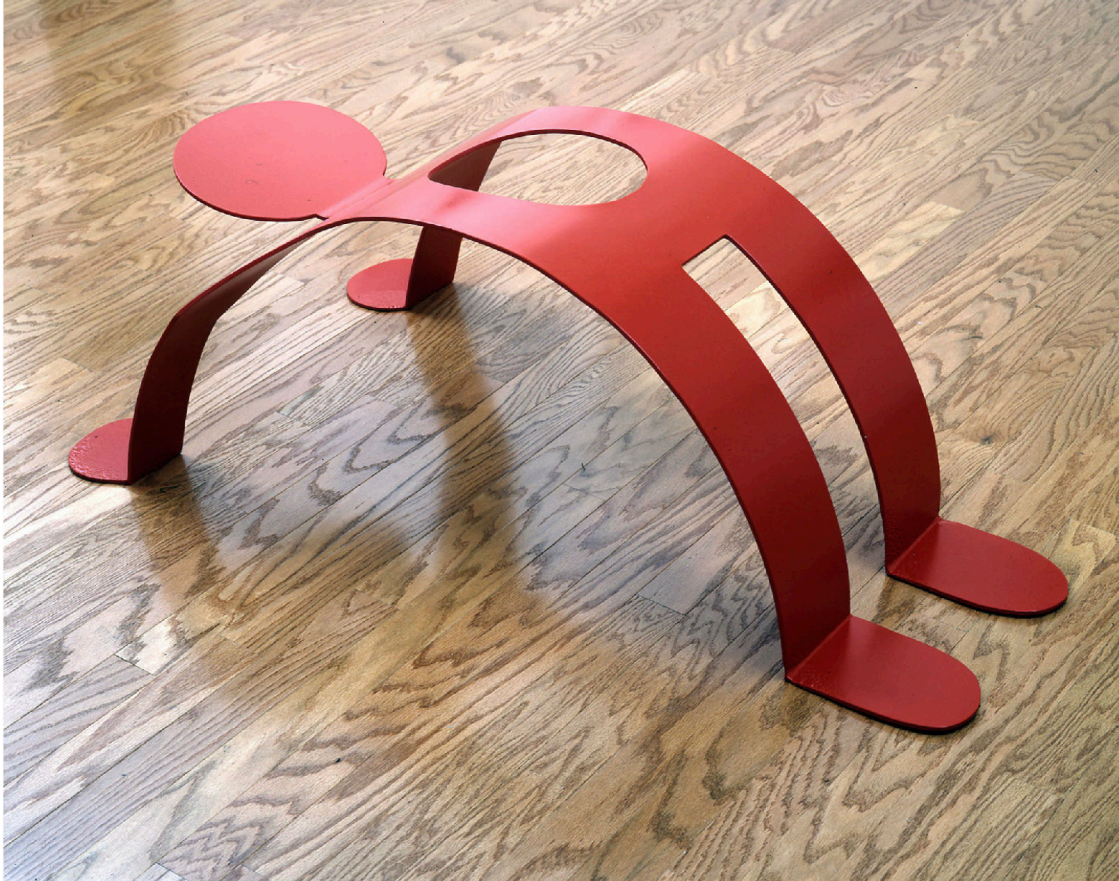
Haring was born in Pittsburgh, where he would study commercial art before losing interest and taking a maintenance job at Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. There, surrounded by important works of contemporary art, he rekindled his passion and developed his style, culminating in his first one man show there in 1978.

He moved to New York, where he would become close friends with the artists Jean-Michel Basquiat, Andy Warhol, Maripol and the performer Madonna. Relatively quickly, he began to attract attention for his subway drawings and his easily recognised calligraphy, and he participated in the prestigious Whitney Biennial in 1983. He made over 50 public murals during the 1980s, becoming something of an establishment figure despite the subversive nature of his work.

Haring was concerned with breaking down the barriers between high and low art, and what work he did sell he sold cheaply, prioritising the distribution of his ideas over profit. He opened a shop, 'Pop Shop' in SoHo, and used it to further awareness about safe sex, the anti-apartheid movement and the growing epidemic of crack-cocaine use. Haring was diagnosed with AIDS in 1988, prompting him to set up a foundation tasked with increasing AIDS awareness and to spend his last years generating activism over the subject.

The artist died in 1990 at the age of only 32, leaving an enormous legacy of work and influence which continues to be widely felt. His work is held in the collections of MoMA and the Whitney Museum in New York, and the Pompidou Centre in Paris amongst many others.





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