

Richard Hunt (American, 1935-2023) – Artist Resources



Hunt, 1962
Photograph: Estate of Richard Hunt

[Hunt Website](#)

[Hunt at SAAM](#)

[Hunt at Kavi Gupta Gallery](#)

[Hunt at the Art Institute of Chicago](#)

In 1971, [The Sculpture of Richard Hunt](#) was installed as the first solo exhibition by a Black artist at the Museum of Modern Art. Read a review of the groundbreaking show in the [New York Times](#).

Read a 1979 [oral history interview](#) with Hunt housed at the Smithsonian Archives of American Art.

The 2014 exhibition [Richard Hunt](#) at the Art Institute of Chicago celebrated the artist's 80th birthday by featuring his work from the 1950s until the 1990s. The following year, Chicago Magazine published an "in the studio with Richard Hunt" [feature](#) and the Chicago Cultural Center opened the exhibition [Richard Hunt: Sixty Years of Sculpture](#) in recognition of this milestone. Axios Chicago also published a [walking tour](#) of Hunt's sculptures.

Read "Natural Tendencies: A Studio Visit with Sculptor Richard Hunt" by Phillip Barcio published in the [Michigan Quarterly Review](#).

In 2018-2019, [Richard Hunt: Synthesis](#) was on display at the Georgia Museum of Art. The exhibition featured drawings and works on paper that trace various phases of Hunt's career alongside welded and cast sculptures and models.

[Richard Hunt: Scholar's Rock or Stone of Hope or Love of Bronze](#) was on display at the Art Institute of Chicago in 2020. The exhibition drew its title from a monumental bronze sculpture made 2014-2020.

The Norton Simon Museum hosted [Richard Hunt: Details](#) in 2022, focusing on a series of eight lithographs the artist made when working with the Tamarind Lithography Workshop in Los Angeles in 1965. Read an [interview](#) with the sculptor about his time at the residency.

In 2022, Kaneko Gallery opened [Richard Hunt: MONUMENTAL](#) featuring over 50 metal sculptures that explore the large-scale production of the artist's career.

Hunt passed away in 2023 at the age of 88. Read tributes in [The New York Times](#), the [Smithsonian American Art Museum](#), the [Museum of Modern Art](#), [The Art Newspaper](#), [The Guardian](#), and [Artforum](#).

[Richard Hunt: Early Masterworks](#) was installed in 2024 as the first posthumous gallery exhibition at White Cube, which announced [global representation](#) of the artist and his estate in 2023.



Hunt in his studio, 2015
Photograph: Thomas McCormick

Richard Hunt (American, 1935-2023)

Years of Pilgrimage, 1999

Welded stainless steel

Private Collection, Los Angeles; L2024.4.1

Richard Hunt was born on the South Side of Chicago and began taking classes with the Chicago Art Institute's Junior School of the Arts when he was 13. In his prolific, seven-decade career, Hunt became the first African American sculptor to have a retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art and the first to serve on the National Council on the Arts. **Years of Pilgrimage** is the final work in Hunt's *Plow Series* that the artist began in 1972. The abstract, welded steel sculpture references the plows his grandfather used as a sharecropper in rural Georgia, but the instrument is rendered useless. Hunt once said: "Sculpture is not a self-declaration but a voice of and for my people — over all, a rich fabric; under all, the dynamism of the African American people."

On view March 20 – June 23, 2024

