



## Tony Smith and George Washington Return to Main Street

**HARTFORD, CT, November 13, 2012:** Two objects from the Wadsworth Atheneum's collection will be re-installed on Main Street on Monday, November 19. The installation process will begin at 11 am.

Tony Smith's *Amaryllis* (1965), one of the works being installed, holds both local and national significance. Locally, the reinstallation of this sculpture is an important contribution to Hartford's existing major public art offerings: Carl Andre's *Stone Field Sculpture* (1977) and Alexander Calder's *Stegosaurus* (1973). *Amaryllis* is a significant addition to the initiatives behind the recent City Canvas project and the iQuilt plan to make Hartford a more walkable, welcoming and visually appealing downtown. Nationally, the Smith installation aligns the Wadsworth Atheneum with other significant art museums, including the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.; the Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art participating in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Smith's birth.

*Amaryllis* is a complex, geometric form made of painted steel and created in an edition of three. Each resides in a public collection: the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.

*Amaryllis* was first exhibited in 1966 at the Wadsworth Atheneum; it was part of Smith's first ever solo museum exhibition. Acquired by the Wadsworth in 1967, it was last on view on Main Street in 2003. The sculpture was recently conserved by Lippincott, Inc., renowned sculpture fabricators and the preferred conservators for works by Tony Smith.

The sculpture is approximately 135" tall by 128" wide and weighs approximately 7000 pounds. A forklift will be used to place the sculpture in front of the Morgan Memorial Building on Main Street. Mariano Brothers Specialty Moving, of Bethel, Connecticut, have been selected to perform this delicate and complex process, having installed and de-installed hundreds of large-scale works by Tony Smith for public and private collections.

**For more information about Tony Smith's works and history with the Wadsworth Atheneum visit [thewadsworth.org/tonysmith](http://thewadsworth.org/tonysmith)**

The second object being installed is the *Washington Memorial* by Ben Johnson (after Jean-Antoine Houdon). This monument commemorates the president's visits to Hartford and Wethersfield and marks the site of Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth's home. It was originally donated by the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution in 1932 and recently restored by ConservArt LLC, Francis Miller, Conservator. The restoration was completed with support from the Karlson Family Foundation, Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution, Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, Colonel Jeremiah Wadsworth Chapter Sons of the American Revolution, Baldwin Branch 9 Sons of the American Revolution and Connecticut Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America.

Susan L. Talbott, Director and CEO, and Patricia Hickson, Emily Hall Tremain Curator of Contemporary Art, will both be available to discuss the installations with members of the press. Please contact Sarah Ferri if you would like to schedule an interview.

**Museum Contact:**

Sarah A. Ferri  
Communications Coordinator  
(860) 838-4081  
sarah.ferri@wadsworthatheneum.org

**Additional Contact:**

Ben Badoud  
Mariano Brothers Specialty Moving LLC.  
5 Paul Street  
Bethel, CT. 06801  
(203) 744-5800  
ben@marianobrothersinc.com