

## Major exhibit showcases works of Plainfield sculptor

A major exhibition by Plainfield artist Mel Edwards runs through June 27 at the Neuberger Museum, State University of New York at Purchase, N.Y.

"Melvin Edwards Sculpture: A Thirty-Year Retrospective" features more than 130 works, including excerpts from his "Lynch Fragment" and "Rockers" series, pedestal pieces and large-scale outdoor works.

The 70 "Lynch Fragments" on view have been created intermittently from 1963 through 1967, in 1973, and again from 1978 to the present. Edwards forms them by welding and hammering together found objects such as railroad spikes, chains and padlocks. He describes them as reminders of the suffering of African Americans, and of the strength that is forged through suffering.

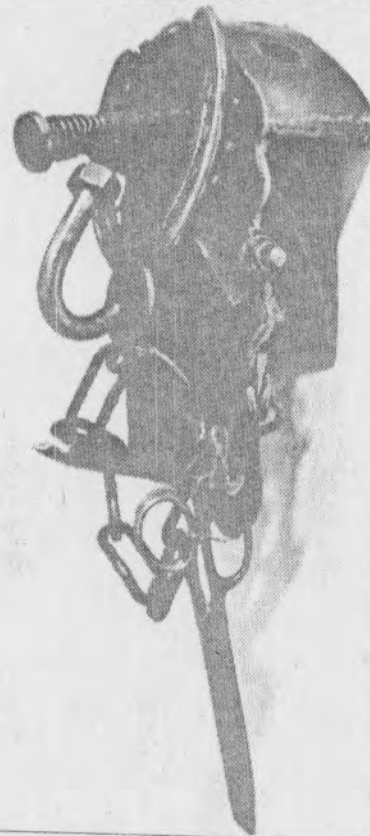
He sculpts the large-scale "Rockers" in memory of his grandmother's rocking chair. Using bold, geometric planes and strong, primary colors, they reflect a simplified approach to form.

Edwards has executed public, outdoor sculptures for 144th Street and Lenox Avenue in New York City; the U.S. Social Security Building at the Federal Plaza, Jamaica, N.Y.; and Lafayette Gardens, Jersey City. His works have been shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Studio Museum in Harlem, and the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford, Conn.; they are in the corporate collections of the Chase Manhattan Bank and The Shomberg Center for Research in Black Cultural, New York City; and Peat, Marwick and Mitchell, Montvale.

Edwards is a professor at the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Visual Art Department, Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

The retrospective has been organized by Lucinda H. Gedeon, director of the Neuberger Museum, and a published scholar in the field of African American Art. The show is accompanied by a 145-page, full-color catalogue, with essays by art critic Michael Brenson; art historian Josephine Gear; and African American art historian and Lowery S. Sims, Metropolitan Museum associate curator of 20th century art.

The Neuberger Museum of Art is open to the public Tuesday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and weekends from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is by requested donation.



Mel Edwards of Plainfield exhibits his welded steel, 'Lynch Fragments,' such as 'Alterations,' left, in a retrospective at the Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, N.Y.