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## **David Smith Sculpture Returns To Empire State Plaza**

### **Artwork was Featured in Traveling Abstract Expressionism Exhibition in Europe**

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced the David Smith Sculpture “Volton XVIII” has returned home to the Empire State Plaza Art Collection after appearing in the traveling exhibition “Abstract Expressionism” at museums in Britain and Spain. The artwork is back on view in a new location in the Corning Tower’s Plaza-level lobby.

“The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Art Collection was established more than 50 years ago with a mission to increase the public’s exposure to modern artwork created primarily by artists from or working in New York State,” Commissioner Destito said. “As the stewards of the collection and under Governor Cuomo’s leadership, we at OGS endeavor to continue that mission. We were honored to loan one of the Plaza’s Smith sculptures and see it join the works of many other New York School artists as part of the first exhibition in Britain since 1959 to present an overview of abstract expressionism.”

“Volton XVIII” is one of five sculptures in Smith’s Voltri-Bolton Landing Series that are part of the Plaza collection. The other four sculptures are currently on loan to the New York State Museum and can be viewed in the exhibit, “The People’s Art: Selections from the Empire State Plaza Art Collection, which commemorates the collection’s 50th anniversary. They will be reunited with “Volton XVIII” at the new location in the Corning Tower in early fall.

New bases for the five Smith sculptures were installed next to the windows at the far east end of the Corning Town lobby so they would be situated in a location more aligned with how the artist intended them to be viewed — outside, against a backdrop of rolling hills in upstate New York.

“Volton XVIII” is made of painted steel and integrates replicas of the artist’s tools — pliers, wrenches, and washers — within the artwork to serve as symbols of the industrial world.

The Empire State Plaza Art Collection consists of 92 modern art paintings, sculptures, and tapestries that were purchased in the late 1960s to the early 1970s, including works by Alexander Calder, Jackson Pollock, Franz Kline, Joan Mitchell, and Mark Rothko. In all, 82 artists who were working in New York at the time the collection was acquired are represented. The collection, selected by a commission appointed by Governor Nelson Rockefeller, was purchased with state funds during construction of the Empire State Plaza.

More information about the art collection can be found online at [www.empirestateplaza.org](http://www.empirestateplaza.org).

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Attached: Image of *Volton XVIII* by David Smith, Courtesy of the New York State Office of General Services