

MIT List Visual Arts Center

Mark di Suvero

MEDIUM Sculpture

NATIONALITY American

LIFE DATES Shanghai, China 1933 -

Mark di Suvero was born Marco Polo di Suvero in Shanghai, China. His father, a naval attaché for the Italian government, relocated the family to San Francisco in 1941. Di Suvero attended San Francisco City College, and the University of California at Santa Barbara and Berkeley before receiving a BA in Philosophy in 1956.

By this time, he had developed an interest in sculpture. In 1957, he moved to New York, where he encountered the work of Abstract Expressionist painting and the sculpture of David Smith. His earlier works were small pieces in cast bronze and unfinished wood. While working at a construction job in 1960, the year of his first solo exhibition at the Green Gallery, New York, he was critically injured and confined to a wheelchair for two years. He continued to work in steel and other industrial materials on works that dramatically increased in scale from mid-decade. Di Suvero co-founded Park Place Gallery, New York, an artists cooperative for new artists. He also established the Athena Foundation to fund individual artists and Socrates Sculpture Park in Queens.

In 2005, he received the Heinz Award in the Arts and Humanities. He has been featured in many solo exhibitions at venues including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, and Storm King Sculpture Park in Mountainville, New York; in 1975, he was the first living artist to have his work shown at Le Jardin des Tuileries in Paris. His work is in the collections of National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.; Courtauld Institute of Art, London; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.; Storm King Art Center, Mountainville, New York; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; and many other public institutions. His installations appear in many parks and public spaces in the United States and France.

