

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

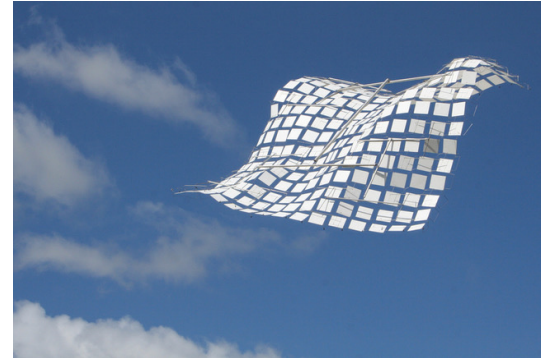
For Immediate Release

TIM PRENTICE: AFTER THE MOBILE

March 29 to October 4, 2021

Outdoor installation: September 19, 2021 to April 24, 2022

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum is pleased to present *After the Mobile*, a two-part solo exhibition by artist Tim Prentice (b. 1930), known for his innovative work in the field of motion in sculpture. Prentice has been a resident of Connecticut since 1975, and *After the Mobile* marks his first solo museum exhibition in the state since 1999. The exhibition will feature twenty indoor works, five outdoor works, and a video portrait of the artist, presented both in the Museum's galleries and Sculpture Garden, with the indoor exhibition on view from March 29 to October 4, 2021, and the outdoor installation on view from September 19, 2021 to April 24, 2022.



Tim Prentice, *Large White Carpet*, 2005
Courtesy of the artist

The title of the exhibition refers to Alexander Calder, a former Connecticut resident who in the 1930s adopted the term *mobile* at the urging of Marcel Duchamp to describe his balanced, moving wind-driven constructions. Calder's playful *Mobiles*, and later George Rickey's delicately balanced minimalist, kinetic sculpture, each defined their time. Prentice's contribution to the field strongly relates to the rise in the past half century of systems theory, the understanding that cohesive systems are interrelated and independent parts are resilient to external disruption, having the ability to move but always returning to their original form. Prentice's seemingly complex but simple systems of bent, articulated wire and metal or plastic planes are incredibly sensitive to moving air and seem to be extremely fragile, but are actually quite robust, giving in to the wind's force, but always recovering with their motion revealing the rippling and fluid patterns of moving air.

Prentice's work is informed by his former career as an architect. One project of note is his role as lead architect on the main buildings of the Josef & Anni Albers Foundation in Bethany, CT, along with Lo-Yi Chan, (Prentice had studied with Josef Albers as a student). He largely gave up architecture in the early 1970s to devote himself to making art, and his lifelong engagement with music. Like music, the artist's sculpture is based on strict, underlying patterns and how those patterns allow for variation within set limits. It should be noted that the artist and his assistants construct all of the works themselves, and the fact that they are constantly hand-tinkering with the wire structures as they develop and build them allows for experimentation and incremental evolution. All of the work is created with simple hand tools that one might find in a basement workshop and the hand interlinking of the wire components, while not craft in any traditional sense, does relate to other types of intricate handwork such as knitting. A large part of the charge of Prentice's work comes out of his ability to create sensuous and beautiful experiences out of hard, industrial materials. Artist David Colbert has assisted Prentice for over thirty years and his role in the artist's practice cannot be overestimated. Increasingly, Colbert has become a true collaborator in all details of the studio's output, and he is working closely with The Aldrich on the realization of the exhibition.

Tim Prentice's (b. 1930, New York, NY) sculpture has been the subject of recent one-person exhibitions at The Robert Lehman Art Center, North Andover, MA; Maxwell Davidson Gallery, New York, NY; and Galerie VonBartha, Basel, Switzerland. Major recent public commissions include the Sandy Hook School, Newtown, CT; General Mitchell International Airport, Milwaukee, WI; Stanford Law School, Stanford, CA; and the Hartsfield-Atlanta International Airport, Atlanta, GA. Prentice lives and works in West Cornwall, CT.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a 28-page catalogue featuring an essay by the exhibition's curator, Richard Klein.

Organized by Richard Klein, Exhibitions Director, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum.

For press inquiries, please contact Emily Devoe at 203.438.4519, extension 140, or edevoe@thealdrich.org.

Generous support for *Tim Prentice: After the Mobile* is provided by the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, Pam and Jack Baker, and Anita and Nick Donofrio.

258 Main Street Ridgefield, CT 06877
203.438.4519
www.thealdrich.org

