



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

## A Finding Aid to the Kenneth Snelson Papers, 1947-2016, in the Archives of American Art

Hilary Price and Caroline Donadio

2018/02/16

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## Collection Overview

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b> | Archives of American Art  |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Kenneth Snelson papers  |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1947-2016   |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | AAA.snelkenn  |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Snelson, Kenneth, 1927-2016   |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 21.8 Linear feet  |
| <b>Language:</b>   | English .   |
| <b>Summary:</b>    | The papers of artist Kenneth Snelson measure 21.8 linear feet and date from 1947-2016. While primarily known for his sculptures incorporating the structural principle of tensegrity, Snelson was also a prolific photographer and forerunner of computer art. The collection documents the artist's life and work through chronological files, correspondence, project files, gallery and exhibition files, photographic material, and printed material. Chronological files detail seven decades of personal and professional activities, beginning with Snelson's summers at Black Mountain College where he studied with Buckminster Fuller. Project files comprise nearly half of the collection and extensively document his sculptures, towers, atom model, computer art, patents, and cataloging and publishing projects. |

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the Archives of American Art in 2017 by Katherine Snelson, Kenneth Snelson's widow.

### Processing Information

The collection was processed and a finding aid prepared by Hilary Price and Caroline Donadio in 2018.

### Preferred Citation

Kenneth Snelson papers, 1947-2016. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

### Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C. Research Center.

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## Biographical / Historical

Kenneth Snelson (1927-2016) was a New York City based artist best known for his sculptures incorporating the structural principle of tensegrity, or tensional integrity.

Born in Pendleton, Oregon, Snelson enrolled in college in his home state, studying painting, sculpture, and engineering. In the summers of 1948 and 1949, he attended Black Mountain College and studied with Buckminster Fuller and Joseph Albers. Snelson then attended the Chicago Institute of Design from 1949-1950, and moved to New York City in 1952.

For the next decade, Snelson worked as a cameraman for documentary films, often travelling internationally. In the early 1960s, Snelson began exhibiting his sculptures, and gained representation by Dwan Gallery. Snelson completed several commissions and installations of his sculptures over the next decade, including *Tower of Light*, a contribution to the 1964 World's Fair, and *Needle Tower*, first erected in New York's Bryant Park in 1968. While continuing to work in sculpture throughout his career, Snelson began experimenting with panoramic and stereoscopic photography in the 1970s, and became a forerunner of computer art in the 1980s, using the Silicon Graphics computer to create digital sculptures.

In addition to Dwan Gallery, Snelson has shown with Sonnabend Gallery, Zabriskie Gallery, Marlborough Gallery, and the artist-run ConStruct Gallery.

Snelson has been the recipient of numerous awards and prizes including an Honorary Doctorate from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a prize for sculpture from the National Academy of Design.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers of artist Kenneth Snelson measure 21.8 linear feet and date from 1947-2016. While primarily known for his sculptures incorporating the structural principle of tensegrity, Snelson was also a prolific photographer and forerunner of computer art. The collection documents the artist's life and work through chronological files, correspondence, project files, gallery and exhibition files, photographic material, and printed material.

Chronological files detail seven decades of personal and professional activities, beginning with Snelson's summers at Black Mountain College where he studied with Buckminster Fuller. Files contain a diverse array of material including personal photographs, photographs of artwork, printed material, correspondence, life documents, resumes, exhibition records, drawings and sketches, supply receipts, and professional files.

Correspondence in Series 2 is primarily with artists and friends. Notable correspondents include artists Buckminster Fuller, Anthony Hill, Todd Siler, and Shinkichi Tajiri.

Project files comprise nearly half of the collection and extensively document Snelson's sculptures, towers, atom model, computer art, patents, and cataloging and publishing projects. Files include a great deal of photographic material of artwork, models, and installations, as well as sketches, notes regarding specifications, material samples, supply receipts, invoices, and correspondence with dealers, contractors, institutions, and companies commissioning work.

Exhibition and gallery files document dozens of exhibitions and galleries that have represented Snelson over the years in the United States, Europe, and Japan. Items include correspondence, photographic material of artworks, installations, and openings, exhibitions lists, floorplans, shipping receipts, invoices, contracts, and printed material including exhibitions catalogs, announcements, and clippings.

Photographic material includes photographic prints, slides, negatives, contact sheets, and transparencies, as well as notes that Snelson kept about camera types and photographic processes. Although personal photographs are included here, the bulk of the material pertains to Snelson's fine art photography in which he experiments with panoramic photography and stereoscopic photography.

Printed material is predominantly comprised of exhibition catalogs, although a few articles and clippings are filed here as well.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged as six series.

- Series 1: Chronological Files, 1948-2015 (Boxes 1-6; 5.1 linear feet)
- Series 2: Correspondence, 1948-2009 (Box 6; 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 3: Project Files, 1947-2016 (Boxes 6-17; 10.8 linear feet)
- Series 4: Exhibition and Gallery Files, 1963-2016 (Boxes 17-20; 1.5 linear feet)
- Series 5: Photographic Material, 1951-2004 (Boxes 20-22; 1.8 linear feet)
- Series 6: Printed Material, 1960-2015 (Boxes 22-23; 0.7 linear feet)

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Names:

Black Mountain College (Black Mountain, N.C.)  
Fuller, R. Buckminster (Richard Buckminster), 1895-  
Tajiri, Shinkichi, 1923-2009

Occupations:

Sculptors -- New York (State) -- New York

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Chronological Files, 1948-2015

#### 5.1 Linear feet (Boxes 1-6)

Scope and Contents: Chronological files date from 1948-2015 and extensively document personal and professional activities over a seven decade period. Folders contain a great deal of personal photographs, photographs of artwork, printed material, and correspondence with friends, dealers, and curators. Other items found amongst the files include life documents, resumes, exhibition records, drawings and sketches, supply receipts, and professional files. Files from the late 1960s and early 1970s include many documents pertaining to Snelson's representation at Dwan Gallery. Files from the early 1970s and late 1980s include many letters and postcards from artist Carl Andre. Found throughout are frequent letters to his family while traveling, describing his daily activities, work, and challenges. Some folders contain copy prints and inventory lists created at a later date. Additional description of folder contents can be found at the file level. Correspondence is also found in Series 2.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Box 1, Folder 1 | Chronological Files, 1948-1949<br>Notes: Includes material relating to Black Mountain College  |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Chronological Files, 1948-1949<br>Notes: Includes photographic material of early artworks and Pendleton, Oregon                        |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Chronological Files, 1949-1950<br>Notes: Includes photographic material of early artworks and Chicago Institute of Design              |
| Box 1, Folder 4 | Chronological Files, 1951-1954<br>Notes: Includes photographic material from a 1951 trip to Europe                                     |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Chronological Files, 1951-1960<br>Notes: Includes documents pertaining to Snelson's work as a cameraman and trip to Hong Kong          |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Chronological Files, 1955-1958   |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Chronological Files, 1959-1963<br>Notes: Includes photographs from a Buckminster Fuller exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in 1959 |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Chronological Files, 1964<br>Notes: Includes documents pertaining to <i>Tower of Light</i> sculpture at the World's Fair               |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Chronological Files, 1965<br>Notes: Includes photographs of Snelson's home in Sagaponack, New York                                     |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Box 1, Folder 10    | Chronological Files, 1966   |
| Box 1, Folder 11-12 | Chronological Files, 1967<br>Notes: Includes a review of Snelson's work by Gregory Battcock for <i>Arts Magazine</i>        |
| Box 1, Folder 13-14 | Chronological Files, 1968   |
| Box 1, Folder 15    | Chronological Files, 1968<br>Notes: Includes material relating to <i>Needle Tower</i> construction in Bryant Park, New York |
| Box 1, Folder 16    | Chronological Files, 1969   |
| Box 2, Folder 1     | Chronological Files, 1970   |
| Box 2, Folder 2     | Chronological Files, 1971<br>Notes: Includes blueprints for studio spaces   |
| Box 2, Folder 3-4   | Chronological Files, 1972<br>Notes: Includes day planners and calendars   |
| Box 2, Folder 5     | Chronological Files, 1973   |
| Box 2, Folder 6     | Chronological Files, 1974<br>Notes: Includes several letters from artist George Rickey                                      |
| Box 2, Folder 7     | Chronological Files, 1975   |
| Box 2, Folder 8-9   | Chronological Files, 1976   |
| Box 2, Folder 10-11 | Chronological Files, 1977   |
| Box 2, Folder 12    | Chronological Files, 1978   |
| Box 2, Folder 13-14 | Chronological Files, 1979   |
| Box 2, Folder 15-16 | Chronological Files, 1980   |
| Box 3, Folder 1-2   | Chronological Files, 1981   |
| Box 3, Folder 3-5   | Chronological Files, 1982   |
| Box 3, Folder 6     | Chronological Files, 1983   |
| Box 3, Folder 7-8   | Chronological Files, 1984   |

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Box 3, Folder 9-10  | Chronological Files, 1985   |
| Box 3, Folder 11-12 | Chronological Files, 1986<br>Notes: Includes loose pages of journal entries   |
| Box 3, Folder 13    | Chronological Files, 1987   |
| Box 4, Folder 1     | Chronological Files, 1988   |
| Box 4, Folder 2-3   | Chronological Files, 1989   |
| Box 4, Folder 4     | Chronological Files, 1989<br>Notes: Material pertains to Kyoto trip   |
| Box 4, Folder 5     | Chronological Files, 1989<br>Notes: Material pertains to Visual Artists Rights Act testimony  |
| Box 4, Folder 6     | Chronological Files, 1989-1990<br>Notes: Material pertains to the Ars Electronica festival in Linz, Austria                                 |
| Box 4, Folder 7-9   | Chronological Files, 1990   |
| Box 4, Folder 10    | Chronological Files, 1990<br>Notes: Material pertains to Japan trip   |
| Box 4, Folder 11-12 | Chronological Files, 1991   |
| Box 4, Folder 13-14 | Chronological Files, 1992   |
| Box 4, Folder 15-16 | Chronological Files, 1993   |
| Box 4, Folder 17    | Chronological Files, 1994   |
| Box 4, Folder 18    | Chronological Files, 1994-2004<br>Notes: Material pertains to the American Academy of Arts and Letters                                      |
| Box 5, Folder 1-2   | Chronological Files, 1995<br>Notes: Includes "Snelson discusses Joseph Albers at Black Mountain College: a Conversation with Fred Horowitz" |
| Box 5, Folder 3     | Chronological Files, 1996   |
| Box 5, Folder 4     | Chronological Files, 1997   |
| Box 5, Folder 5     | Chronological Files, 1998   |
| Box 5, Folder 6-7   | Chronological Files, 1999   |



|                     |                                     |   |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
|                     | Notes:                              | Includes material relating to a lifetime achievement award from the International Sculpture Center  |
| Box 5, Folder 8     |                                     | Chronological Files, 2000   |
| Box 5, Folder 9     |                                     | Chronological Files, 2001   |
| Box 5, Folder 10-11 |                                     | Chronological Files, 2002   |
| Box 5, Folder 12-13 | Chronological Files, 2003<br>Notes: | Includes a copy of a 1972 interview with Snelson by Mary E. Harris regarding Black Mountain College |
| Box 5, Folder 14    |                                     | Chronological Files, 2004   |
| Box 5, Folder 15    | Chronological Files, 2005<br>Notes: | Includes material pertaining to a proposal for the World Trade Center Tower                         |
| Box 5, Folder 16    |                                     | Chronological Files, 2006   |
| Box 5, Folder 17    |                                     | Chronological Files, 2007   |
| Box 5, Folder 18    |                                     | Chronological Files, 2008   |
| Box 5, Folder 19    |                                     | Chronological Files, 2009   |
| Box 5, Folder 20    |                                     | Chronological Files, 2010   |
| Box 6, Folder 1     |                                     | Chronological Files, 2011-2012  |
| Box 6, Folder 2     |                                     | Chronological Files, 2013-2014  |
| Box 6, Folder 3     |                                     | Chronological Files, 2015   |

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## Series 2: Correspondence, 1948-2009

### 0.5 Linear feet (Box 6)

Scope and Contents: The correspondence here dates from 1948-2009 and is primarily with artists and friends. Notable correspondents include artists Buckminster Fuller, Anthony Hill, Todd Siler, and Shinkichi Tajiri. Several letters from Tajiri are illustrated and include photographic material. Correspondence with Fuller also includes printed material, photographic material, and letters between Snelson and Fuller's estate. Some of the letters pertain to an ongoing intellectual property dispute that Snelson raises against Fuller. Also found here is a sequence of printed email correspondence, which Snelson organized by subject. Correspondence is also found in Series 1, 3, and 4.

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Box 6, Folder 4-5  | Fuller, Buckminster, 1948-2009  |
| Box 6, Folder 6    | Hettinger, Esther and Mary Mattley, 1975-1993<br>Notes: Snelson's art teachers from Pendleton, Oregon |
| Box 6, Folder 7    | Hill, Anthony (ARS, Arts Research Syndicate), 1974-1993   |
| Box 6, Folder 8    | Siler, Todd, 1991-1997  |
| Box 6, Folder 9-10 | Tajiri, Shinkichi, 1976-2002  |
| Box 6              | Emails by Subject   |
| Box 6, Folder 11   | Engineering, 1996-2005  |
| Box 6, Folder 12   | Fan Letters, 1996-2005  |
| Box 6, Folder 13   | Osteopathy, 1996-2005   |
| Box 6, Folder 14   | Portrait of an Atom, 1996-2005  |
| Box 6, Folder 15   | Requests for Book Information, 1996-2005  |
| Box 6, Folder 16   | Tensegrity, 1996-2005   |
| Box 6, Folder 17   | Holiday Cards, 1980s  |

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## Series 3: Project Files, 1947-2016

### 10.8 Linear feet (Boxes 6-17)

**Scope and Contents:** Project files date from 1947-2016 and comprise nearly half of the collection at 10.8 linear feet. Projects include Snelson's sculptures, towers, columns, atom model, computer pictures, patents, and cataloging and publishing projects. Files pertaining to the sculptures, towers, and columns contain a great deal of photographic material of the artwork, models, and installation. Also found are sketches, notes regarding specifications, material samples, supply receipts, invoices, and correspondence with dealers, contractors, institutions, and companies commissioning work. When known, the artwork's creation date is expressed in parentheses, while the expanded date range reflects Snelson's reworking, ongoing research, and documentation of certain projects over a period of years.

In Snelson's atom model project, he explores parallels between the atom and one of his work processes in which simple forms are combined to create more complex forms. His research led him to communicate with scientists and write several essays expanding on the idea of his atom model. Items found here include correspondence, writings, research, notes, printed material, and photographic material depicting his atom model. Snelson worked with this model for several decades.

Computer pictures document the artworks that Snelson created in the 1980s and 1990s using the Silicon Graphics 3130 computer and Wavefront software. Files contain correspondence, notes, and printed material pertaining to the computer and software program, as well as photographs and transparencies of dozens of artworks generated with the software.

Patents include drawings, correspondence, notes, writings, and documents related to the patent process for several inventions, including the atom model and the concept of tensegrity. Cataloging and publishing projects seek to document life events and bodies of work. Items include writings, correspondence with publishers, a chronology, and an inventory that incorporates thumbnail images.

Snelson's photography and panoramas can be found in Series 5.

**Arrangement:** The series is arranged as six subseries.

- 3.1: Sculptures, 1948-2016
- 3.2: Towers and Columns, 1960-2016
- 3.3: Atom Model, 1960-2014
- 3.4: Computer Pictures, 1987-1996
- 3.5: Patents, 1947-2004
- 3.6: Cataloging and Publishing, 1986-2015

### Subseries 3.1: Sculptures, 1948-2016

#### 7.9 Linear feet (Boxes 6-14)

|                  |                                 |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Box 6, Folder 18 | Able Baker (1975), 1975-2013    |
| Box 6, Folder 19 | Able Charlie (1978), 1978-2015  |
| Box 6, Folder 20 | Airplane Models (1992), 1992    |
| Box 6, Folder 21 | Andrea's Day (1974), 1974, 2012 |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 6, Folder 22    | Articulate Lip Tower, Black Tower (1960), 1960-1967, 2013              |
| Box 6, Folder 23-24 | Atom Sculptures, 1960s, 1990s  |
| Box 7, Folder 1     | <a href="#">Audrey I and II (1966)</a> , 1966-2012                     |
| Box 7, Folder 2     | Avenue K (1968), 1968-1969, 1997                                       |
| Box 7, Folder 3     | Bead Chain Pieces, 1959-2011   |
| Box 7               | Bee Tree (1981)  |
| Box 7, Folder 4     | Correspondence, 1981-2007  |
| Box 7, Folder 5     | Invoices, 1981-2007  |
| Box 7, Folder 6     | Materials, 1981  |
| Box 7, Folder 7     | Notes and Specifications, 1979-2003                                    |
| Box 7, Folder 8     | Photographic Material, 1981-2015                                       |
| Box 7, Folder 9     | Printed Material, 1979-2015  |
| Box 7, Folder 10    | Cable Woven Pieces, 1973-1974  |
| Box 7, Folder 11    | Cast Bronze Sculptures, 1963, 1993                                     |
| Box 7, Folder 12    | Cane (1984), 1984-1985   |
| Box 7, Folder 13    | Cantilever (1966-1971), 1966-2012                                      |
| Box 7, Folder 14    | Celluloid (1959), 1959   |
| Box 7, Folder 15    | Celtic Pieces (1993), 1993   |
| Box 7, Folder 16    | Circle and Ring Sculptures, "Study for Atomic Space", 1964, circa 2006 |
| Box 7, Folder 17    | City Boots (1967), 1967-2015   |
| Box 7, Folder 18    | El Cordobes and El Olivo (1970), Ibiza, 1970, 2015                     |
| Box 7, Folder 19-20 | Coronation Day (1980), Buffalo, 1978-1980, 2005-2014                   |
| Box 7, Folder 21    | Double Shell Tetrakai (1979), 1979-2014                                |
| Box 7, Folder 22    | Digital Stone (2007), 2007, 2011                                       |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 8               | Dragon (1999)                          |
| Box 8, Folder 1-2   | Correspondence, 1997-2004              |
| Box 8, Folder 3     | Full Scale Construction, 1991-2001     |
| Box 8, Folder 4     | Invoices, 1999-2005                    |
| Box 8, Folder 5     | Marlborough Gallery, 2001-2002         |
| Box 8, Folder 6     | Notes and Specifications, 1999         |
| Box 8, Folder 7     | Photographic Material, 1999            |
| Box 8, Folder 8-9   | Printed Material, 1999                 |
| Box 8, Folder 10    | Salem Hub Model, 1999-2004             |
| Box 8, Folder 11    | Easter Monday (1977), 1977-2014        |
| Box 8, Folder 12-13 | Easy K I (1970), 1969-1971, 2006       |
| Box 8, Folder 14    | Easy K II (1981), 1981                 |
| Box 8, Folder 15-16 | Easy K (2001), New Zealand, 2001       |
| Box 8, Folder 17-18 | Easy Landing (1977), 1976-1980, 2015   |
| Box 8, Folder 19    | Fair Leda (1969), 1969                 |
| Box 8, Folder 20    | Flat Out (1979), 1979, 2000            |
| Box 9               | Forest Devil (1979)                    |
| Box 9, Folder 1     | Correspondence, 1977, 2004             |
| Box 9, Folder 2     | Notes and Specifications, 1970s-2000s  |
| Box 9, Folder 3-4   | Photographic Material, 1977-1979, 2002 |
| Box 9, Folder 5     | Printed Material, 1975-2003            |
| Box 9, Folder 6     | Forest Mouse (1975), 1975-1977         |
| Box 9, Folder 7     | Four Module Piece (1968), 1968-2002    |
| Box 9, Folder 8     | Four Star Poona (1988), 1988-1994      |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Box 9, Folder 9     | Four Tube Pieces, Four Chances (1979), 1979-1999 |
| Box 9               | Free Ride Home (1974)                            |
| Box 9, Folder 10    | Correspondence, 1975-2013                        |
| Box 9, Folder 11    | Notes and Specifications, 1974-1975              |
| Box 9, Folder 12-13 | Photographic Material, 1974-1975, 1991           |
| Box 9, Folder 14    | Printed Material, 1974, 1982, 2009               |
| Box 9, Folder 15    | Green Guide (1975), 1975, 2014                   |
| Box 9, Folder 16    | Greene Street I, II, and III (1975), 1975-2015   |
| Box 9, Folder 17    | IGA Hamburg Sculpture (1973), 1972-1973          |
| Box 9, Folder 18    | Indexer (1979, 1999), 1979, 1999-2015            |
| Box 9, Folder 19    | Hirshhorn Piece (1967), 1967-2012                |
| Box 10, Folder 1    | Jewelry, 1994-1999                               |
| Box 10, Folder 2-3  | Key City (1967), 1967-1975, 2015                 |
| Box 10, Folder 4    | King X (1972), 1972-2015                         |
| Box 10, Folder 5-6  | Kite Sculptures, 1971-1972                       |
| Box 10, Folder 7    | Ladle (1967-1970), 1967-1970                     |
| Box 10, Folder 8    | Landing (1970), 1970-1998                        |
| Box 10, Folder 9    | List Piece (1967), 1967-2016                     |
| Box 10, Folder 10   | Lorraine (1968), 1968-2011                       |
| Box 10, Folder 11   | Makit Toy (1959), 1959                           |
| Box 10, Folder 12   | Mara Terry (1975), 1975-1994                     |
| Box 10, Folder 13   | Matrix Eight (1964), 1964-1971                   |
| Box 10, Folder 14   | Micro Fiche (1969-1970), 1970                    |
| Box 10, Folder 15   | Mirror Mirror (1999), 1999-2003                  |

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Box 10               | Mozart (1982)                                   |
| Box 10, Folder 16    | Correspondence, 1981-2008                       |
| Box 10, Folder 17    | Invoices, 1982-1997                             |
| Box 10, Folder 18    | Notes, 1982-1997                                |
| Box 10, Folder 19-20 | Photographic Material, 1982, 1997               |
| Box 10, Folder 21    | Photographic Material, Purchase, NY, 1985, 1998 |
| Box 11, Folder 1     | Printed Material, 1982-2009                     |
| Box 11, Folder 2-3   | New Dimensions (1977), 1976-1977                |
| Box 11, Folder 4-5   | New Dimensions, Soft Landing (1977), 1977-1983  |
| Box 11, Folder 6     | Newport (1968), 1968-2015                       |
| Box 11, Folder 7     | Northwood (1969), 1969-2001                     |
| Box 11, Folder 8-9   | Northwood II (1969-1970), 1969-2007             |
| Box 11, Folder 10    | Omega (1972, 1993), 1972-2000                   |
| Box 11, Folder 11    | Osaka (1969-1973), 1969-2015                    |
| Box 11, Folder 12    | Paper Column (1998), 1998                       |
| Box 11, Folder 13    | Planar Pieces (1960-1963), 1959-1963, 2015      |
| Box 11, Folder 14    | Plastic Tube Pieces (1974), 1974                |
| Box 11, Folder 15    | Post Pieces (2006-2008), 2006-2009              |
| Box 11, Folder 16    | Pyramid Piece (1993), 1993-2015                 |
| Box 11, Folder 17    | Rador (1975), 1975-1994                         |
| Box 11, Folder 18    | Revolver (1966), 1966                           |
| Box 11, Folder 19    | Sag Harbor I, 1965, 2015                        |
| Box 11, Folder 20    | Sag Harbor II (1965), 1965, 2015                |
| Box 11, Folder 21    | Sag Main Street (1965-1966), 1965-2006          |

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Box 11, Folder 22    | Shoebox Sculpture (1993), 1993-2000           |
| Box 11, Folder 23    | Sigma Data (1975), 1975-2015                  |
| Box 12, Folder 1     | Six #1 (1966), 1966-2005                      |
| Box 12, Folder 2     | Six #2 (1968), 1968, 2015                     |
| Box 12, Folder 3     | Six by Eight (1966), 1966                     |
| Box 12, Folder 4     | Six Strut String (2002), 2002                 |
| Box 12, Folder 5     | Six Strut Studies (1996), 1996-2005           |
| Box 12, Folder 6     | Sixty and One Half Degrees (1992), circa 1992 |
| Box 12, Folder 7     | Sleeping Dragon (2002), 2002-2004             |
| Box 12, Folder 8-9   | Skywalker (1999), 1999-2016                   |
| Box 12, Folder 10-11 | Small Sculptures, 1970s-2010s                 |
| Box 12, Folder 12    | Sprawl Piece (1974), 1974                     |
| Box 12, Folder 13    | Spring Street (1964), 1962-1976               |
| Box 12, Folder 14    | Stage Five (1966), 1966                       |
| Box 12, Folder 15    | Sun River (1967), 1967-2015                   |
| Box 12               | Star Works                                    |
| Box 12, Folder 16    | Double Star (1959), 1959-2002                 |
| Box 12, Folder 17    | Star (1979), 1979, 2002                       |
| Box 12, Folder 18    | Super Star (1966), 1961-2015                  |
| Box 12, Folder 19    | Tall Star (1979), 1979-2000                   |
| Box 12               | Tall Tail (1976)                              |
| Box 12, Folder 20    | Hamburg, 1976-1977                            |
| Box 12, Folder 21    | San Diego, 1975-1977                          |
| Box 12, Folder 22    | Photographic Material, 1976                   |



|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Box 12, Folder 23    | Technical Drawings and Notes, General, 1960s-2000s |
| Box 12, Folder 24    | Tetrakai (1979), 1979-1996                         |
| Box 12, Folder 25    | Three Way Modules (1972), 1972, 2009               |
| Box 13               | Triple Crown (1989, 1991)                          |
| Box 13, Folder 1     | Correspondence, 1989-1993                          |
| Box 13, Folder 2     | Invoices, 1989-1991                                |
| Box 13, Folder 3     | Materials (Tubes, Cables, and Hubs), 1980-1993     |
| Box 13, Folder 4     | Notes and Specifications, 1989-1991                |
| Box 13, Folder 5-6   | Photographic Material, 1989-1991                   |
| Box 13, Folder 7     | Printed Material, 1990-1993                        |
| Box 13, Folder 8     | Twist (1993), 1993-2015                            |
| Box 13               | T-Zone Flight (1995)                               |
| Box 13, Folder 9     | Correspondence, 1993-1995                          |
| Box 13, Folder 10    | Invoices, 1994-1995                                |
| Box 13, Folder 11    | Notes and Specifications, 1993-1994                |
| Box 13, Folder 12    | Photographic Material, 1993-1995                   |
| Box 13, Folder 13    | Printed Material, 1993-1995                        |
| Box 13, Folder 14    | Vine Street (1966), 1966-2013                      |
| Box 13, Folder 15-16 | Vortex, V-X (1966), 1966-2013                      |
| Box 13, Folder 17    | Wedding Sculpture (1996), 1996                     |
| Box 13, Folder 18    | Welded Sculptures (1993), 1993                     |
| Box 13, Folder 19    | Wiggin's Fork (1968), 1968-2015                    |
| Box 13, Folder 20-21 | Wing I (1992), 1992-2013                           |
| Box 14, Folder 1     | Wing II (1997), 1997-2006                          |

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Box 14, Folder 2  | Woodfield Mall Sculpture (1971), 1970-1972           |
| Box 14, Folder 3  | Wood Sculptures in Sagaponack (1964-1965), 1964-1997 |
| Box 14, Folder 4  | Wooden 'X' Sculptures (1948-1997), 1948-2001         |
| Box 14, Folder 5  | "World Fair," Electronica (1964), 1964-1994          |
| Box 14, Folder 6  | Woven Stick Pieces (1965), 1965, 2001                |
| Box 14, Folder 7  | X Module (1979), 1979-2015                           |
| Box 14, Folder 8  | X Piece (1967), 1967-1994                            |
| Box 14, Folder 9  | X Tetra (1969-1970), 1969-1994                       |
| Box 14, Folder 10 | List of Sculptures, 1997                             |

## Subseries 3.2: Towers and Columns, 1960-2016

### 1.2 Linear feet (Boxes 14-15)

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Box 14, Folder 11    | Barrel Tower (2001), 2001                                       |
| Box 14, Folder 12    | Core Towers (1974), 1974-2003                                   |
| Box 14, Folder 13    | Core Towers (1962, 2002-2003), 1962-2003                        |
| Box 14, Folder 14-15 | Expanding and Contracting Tower (1981), 1981-2006               |
| Box 14, Folder 16    | Expanding and Contracting Tower (2001), Penn Station, 1974-2016 |
| Box 14, Folder 17-18 | Equilateral Quivering Tower (1973-1993), 1973-2015              |
| Box 14, Folder 19-20 | Needle Tower (1968), 1968-2015                                  |
| Box 15, Folder 1     | Needle Tower (1968), 1968-2015                                  |
| Box 15, Folder 2-3   | Needle Tower II (1969), Kröller-Müller, 1969-2003               |
| Box 15, Folder 4     | Spring Street Towers, 1961-1963                                 |
| Box 15, Folder 5     | Tapered Towers (1965-1968), 1965-2007                           |
| Box 15, Folder 6     | Trigonal Tower (1963), 1962-1979                                |
| Box 15, Folder 7     | Tower of Light (1963), 1963-1964                                |

|                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Box 15, Folder 8  | Virlane Tower (1980), 1978-2005  |
| Box 15, Folder 9  | X Planar Tower (1960), 1960-2003 |
| Box 15, Folder 10 | X Tower (1973), 1973-1992        |
| Box 15, Folder 11 | Zig Zag Tower (1997), 1997-1998  |

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### Subseries 3.3: Atom Model, 1960-2014

*0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 15-16)*

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Box 15, Folder 12 | Correspondence with Scientists, 1963-1992              |
| Box 15, Folder 13 | Correspondence, Letters from Snelson, 1962-1992        |
| Box 15, Folder 14 | Correspondence, Letters to Snelson, 1963-1961          |
| Box 15, Folder 15 | Notes, Development of "Portrait of an Atom", 1962-2007 |
| Box 15, Folder 16 | Photographic Material, 1979-2007                       |
| Box 15, Folder 17 | Printed Material, 1964-1982                            |
| Box 15, Folder 18 | Research, 1960-2010                                    |
| Box 16, Folder 1  | Research, 1960-2010                                    |
| Box 16            | Writings   |
| Box 16, Folder 2  | "Portrait of an Atom", 1976                            |
| Box 16, Folder 3  | "Magnetic Analogy", 1979-1987                          |
| Box 16, Folder 4  | "Circles, Spheres, and Atoms", 2002-2014               |
| Box 16, Folder 5  | Various Articles, 1963-2008                            |
| Box 16, Folder 6  | Writings by Others, 1979-1012                          |

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### Subseries 3.4: Computer Pictures, 1987-1996

*0.3 Linear feet (Box 16)*

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Box 16, Folder 7-8 | Silicon Graphics 3130 Computer, 1987-1992 |
|--------------------|---|

|                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Box 16, Folder 9 | Wavefront Software, 1987-1993 |
|------------------|-------------------------------|

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Box 16, Folder 10 | Artworks, A-C, 1987-1996 |
|-------------------|--------------------------|

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Box 16, Folder 11 | Artworks, D-M, 1987-1996 |
|-------------------|--------------------------|

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Box 16, Folder 12 | Artworks, N-W, 1987-1996 |
|-------------------|--------------------------|

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### Subseries 3.5: Patents, 1947-2004

#### *0.3 Linear feet (Box 16)*

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Box 16, Folder 13 | 3-D Weaving, 2002-2004 |
|-------------------|------------------------|

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Box 16, Folder 14 | Atom Model, 1964-1989 |
|-------------------|-----------------------|

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Box 16, Folder 15 | Film Splicer, 1947-1968 |
|-------------------|-------------------------|

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Box 16, Folder 16 | Magnet, Toy, 1997-1999 |
|-------------------|------------------------|

|                   |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Box 16, Folder 17 | Planar Sculptures, 1960-1962 |
|-------------------|------------------------------|

|                   |                                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Box 16, Folder 18 | Tensegrity, United States, 1964-1965 |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Box 16, Folder 19 | Tensegrity, Japan and Canada, 1962-1976 |
|-------------------|---|

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### Subseries 3.6: Cataloging and Publishing, 1986-2015

#### *0.4 Linear feet (Boxes 16-17)*

|                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Box 16, Folder 20 | Aperture Foundation, 1987-1991 |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Box 16, Folder 21 | Chronology, 1927-1975, 2002-circa 2010 |
|-------------------|--|

|                   |                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Box 16, Folder 22 | Hudson Hills Press, 2003-2005 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|

|                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Box 16, Folder 23 | Inventory of Works, circa 2010 |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|

|                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Box 17, Folder 1 | Inventory of Works, circa 2010 |
|------------------|--------------------------------|

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 17, Folder 2 | "Not in My Lifetime," Manuscript, 1985-1987 |
|------------------|---|

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Box 17, Folder 3 | "Weaving: Mother of Tensegrity," Text, circa 2010 |
|------------------|---|

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## Series 4: Exhibition and Gallery Files, 1963-2016

### 2.9 Linear feet (Boxes 17-20)

**Scope and Contents:** Exhibition and gallery files date from 1963-2016 and document dozens of exhibitions and galleries that have represented Snelson over the years in the United States, Europe, and Japan. Items include correspondence, photographic material of artworks, installations, and openings, exhibitions lists, floorplans, shipping receipts, invoices, contracts, and printed material including exhibitions catalogs, announcements, and clippings.

**Arrangement:** The series is arranged as two subseries.

- 4.1: Exhibitions, 1963-2008
- 4.2: Galleries, 1966-2016

### Subseries 4.1: Exhibitions, 1963-2008

#### 1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 17-18)

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Box 17, Folder 4     | Snelson Structures (1963), 1963                                     |
| Box 17, Folder 5     | Five Sculptures (1968), 1968-1969                                   |
| Box 17, Folder 6     | Fort Worth Art Center Museum (1969), 1969                           |
| Box 17, Folder 7     | Stress Structures (1969), Rijksmuseum Kröller Müller, 1968-1969     |
| Box 17, Folder 8     | Kunsthalle Düsseldorf (1970), 1969-1970                             |
| Box 17, Folder 9     | Hannover Kunstverein (1971), 1971                                   |
| Box 17, Folder 10    | Waterside Plaza (1974), 1974-1975                                   |
| Box 17, Folder 11    | Hakone Open-Air Museum, 1976-1988                                   |
| Box 17, Folder 12-13 | Nationalgalerie Berlin, 1974-1977                                   |
| Box 17, Folder 14    | Wilhelm-Lehmbruck Museum (1977), 1972-1978                          |
| Box 17, Folder 15    | Structures (1980), Birmingham Museum of Art, 1980                   |
| Box 17               | Retrospective (1981)  |
| Box 17, Folder 16-17 | General, 1979-1981  |
| Box 17, Folder 18    | Hirshhorn Museum Photographs, 1981                                  |
| Box 17, Folder 19    | Albright-Knox Art Gallery Photographs, 1981                         |
| Box 17, Folder 20-21 | Portrait of an Atom (1981), Maryland Academy of Sciences, 1978-1996 |

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Box 18, Folder 1     | Portrait of an Atom (1982), Traveling Exhibition, 1964-1987     |
| Box 18, Folder 2-3   | Portrait of an Atom, Exhibition Catalog Responses, 1981         |
| Box 18, Folder 4     | Panoramic Photographs (1984), DeCordova Museum, 1984-1985, 1999 |
| Box 18, Folder 5     | SIGGRAPH Traveling Exhibition, 1988-1992                        |
| Box 18, Folder 6     | International Sculpture Center (1989), 1989-1994                |
| Box 18, Folder 7     | The Nature of Structures (1989), 1987-1991                      |
| Box 18, Folder 8     | Musée de Grenoble (1997), 1996-1997                             |
| Box 18, Folder 9     | Digital Stone Exhibition (2008), 2008                           |
| Box 18, Folder 10-11 | Group Exhibitions, 1967-2004                                    |

## Subseries 4.2: Galleries, 1966-2016

### 1.4 Linear feet (Boxes 18-20)

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Box 18, Folder 12    | Anderson Gallery, 1991-1994  |
| Box 18, Folder 13    | ConStruct Gallery, 1978-1981                                       |
| Box 18, Folder 14-17 | Contemporary Sculpture Center, Tokyo, 1991-2002                    |
| Box 19, Folder 1-2   | Contemporary Sculpture Center, Daibiru Building Project, 1998-2000 |
| Box 19, Folder 3     | Dwan Gallery, 1966-1996  |
| Box 19, Folder 4     | Estelle Dodge Associates, 1971                                     |
| Box 19, Folder 5     | Galeria Carl van der Voort, circa 1971                             |
| Box 19, Folder 6     | Galerie Hoffmann, 1997-2009  |
| Box 19, Folder 7     | John Weber Gallery, 1971-1972                                      |
| Box 19, Folder 8     | Laurence Miller Gallery, 1994-2010                                 |
| Box 19, Folder 9-10  | Marlborough Gallery, 1997-2016                                     |
| Box 19, Folder 11    | Maxwell Davidson Gallery, 1994-1998                                |
| Box 19, Folder 12    | Sonnabend Gallery, 1978-1981                                       |

Box 19, Folder 13-16      Yoh Art Gallery, 1989-1998

Box 19, Folder 17      Zabriskie Gallery, 1978-1998

Box 20, Folder 1-2      Zabriskie Gallery, 1978-1998

Box 20, Folder 3      Gallery Files, General, 1975-1999

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## Series 5: Photographic Material, 1951-2004

### 1.8 Linear feet (Boxes 20-22)

Scope and Contents: Photographic material dates from 1951-2004 and includes photographic prints, slides, negatives, contact sheets, and transparencies, as well as notes that Snelson kept about camera types and photographic processes. Primary subjects include artwork, New York City, studio spaces, and travel destinations. Although personal photographs are included here, a bulk of the material pertains to Snelson's fine art photography in which he experiments with panoramic photography and stereoscopic photography. Snelson organized many photographs by the type of camera he used, which can be found under the "Camera Type" heading.

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Box 20, Folder 4     | Artwork, 1959-1989                     |
| Box 20, Folder 5     | Camera Journal, 1994                   |
| Box 20               | Camera Type                            |
| Box 20, Folder 6     | 16 Inch Circuit Camera, 1977-1983      |
| Box 20, Folder 7     | Hulcher (Panoramas), 1974-1994         |
| Box 20, Folder 8     | Hulcher (Studio Shots), 1970-1993      |
| Box 20, Folder 9     | Inventory, 1981-2004                   |
| Box 20, Folder 10    | Kodak Panorama, 1978-1979              |
| Box 20, Folder 11-12 | Stereo, 1984-1985                      |
| Box 20, Folder 13    | Stereo, 1993-1994                      |
| Box 20, Folder 14    | Widelux (Panoramas), 1975-1978         |
| Box 20, Folder 15    | Circle Panoramas, 1984                 |
| Box 20, Folder 16    | Clouds, 1996                           |
| Box 20, Folder 17    | New York, Various Locations, 1979-1994 |
| Box 20, Folder 18    | New York City, Sullivan Street, 1981   |
| Box 20, Folder 19    | New York City, West Side Highway, 1979 |
| Box 20, Folder 20    | Scale Figures, 1980s                   |
| Box 20, Folder 21    | Snelson with Cameras, 1981-1987        |



|                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Box 21               | Studios                         |
| Box 21, Folder 1     | 35 West 26th Street, 1968-1972  |
| Box 21, Folder 2     | 140 Sullivan Street, 1972-2002  |
| Box 21, Folder 3-4   | Berlin, 1959-1960, 1976         |
| Box 21, Folder 5     | George Rickey's Studio, 1979    |
| Box 21, Folder 6     | Sagaponack, New York, 1963-1967 |
| Box 21, Folder 7     | Spring Street, 1960-1963        |
| Box 21, Folder 8     | York Avenue, 1959-1960          |
| Box 21               | Travel                          |
| Box 21, Folder 9     | Bombay, India, 1956             |
| Box 21, Folder 10    | Greece, 1982                    |
| Box 21, Folder 11    | Italy and Greece, 1982          |
| Box 21, Folder 12-14 | Italy, 1982, 2000               |
| Box 21, Folder 15-16 | Venice, Italy, 1982, 1989       |
| Box 21, Folder 17    | Japan, 1958                     |
| Box 21, Folder 18    | Kyoto, Japan, 1989              |
| Box 21, Folder 19-20 | Paris, 1980-1985                |
| Box 22, Folder 1     | Paris, Bois de Boulogne, 1951   |

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## Series 6: Printed Material, 1960-2015

### 0.7 Linear feet (Boxes 22-23)

Scope and Contents: Printed material dates from 1960-2015 and is predominantly comprised of exhibition catalogs, although a few articles and clippings are filed here as well. The series also includes two issues of the *International Journal of Space Structures* and a collage portrait of Snelson by Sam Wiener.

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Box 22, Folder 1   | Articles and Clippings, 1964, 1999                    |
| Box 22, Folder 2   | Collage of Snelson by Sam Wiener, circa 1980          |
| Box 22, Folder 3-5 | Exhibition Catalogs, 1960s-1980s                      |
| Box 23, Folder 1-5 | Exhibition Catalogs, 1980s-2010s                      |
| Box 23, Folder 6   | International Journal of Space Structures, 1996, 2012 |

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