



The New York Times

SCULPTURE IN ALUMINUM: "Floating compression," fashioned from aluminum tubing, is inspected by its sculptor, Kenneth Snelson. Structure will be shown in the Electric Power and Light Company exhibit at World's Fair.

Artist Designs 30-Legged Giant For Utility Exhibition at Fair

In downtown Manhattan at 131 Liberty Street, a small intellectual vagabond and artist named Kenneth Snelson shares his dark, dusty loft with what appears to be a

gigantic grasshopper.

Upon closer inspection, however, it is a modern structural design that has been sold for \$20,000, and is scheduled to appear at the Electric Power and Light Company's exhibit at the World's Fair.

The art object weighs 700 pounds, stands on 30 aluminum legs, each 12 feet high, and stretches 70 feet across Mr. Snelson's studio loft, leaving barely enough room for a table, a canvas stretcher on which he sleeps, and no chairs.

"As a boy in Pendleton, Ore., he recalled, "I used to build model airplanes, but I never wanted to cover them with tissue paper. It was the skeleton, the bones, that I found interesting; and that's why I could never be a sculptor in bronze or clay—too much redundancy."

He studied art at the University of Oregon for two years, then spent a year at Black Mountain College in North Carolina, then studied engineering for a year at Oregon State, then attended the Institute of Design in Chicago, and next went to Paris to study painting under Fernand Leger. Next he was back in New York studying anthropology briefly at Columbia, and also studying theater direction under José Quintero and motion-picture camera techniques in various studios.

"What is this?" he asked yesterday, leaning back on his suitcase and gazing toward the aluminum giant.

"It is something between art and science," he began, carefully. "A sculptor friend of mine said that this is not finality, not art, but I simply told him he is using an extremely limited definition of the word 'sculpture.' But maybe it isn't sculpture...I don't care whether it's sculpture or not; I'm interested in structure."