

George Warren Rickey

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Mr. President, I have the honor to present as a candidate for an honorary degree GEORGE WARREN RICKEY, distinguished American artist, sculptor, and educator. Born in Indiana, George Rickey studied at Trinity College, Scotland, took his B.A. and M.A. degrees at Oxford University, with additional studies at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Oxford; Academie Andre L'hote and Academie Moderne in Paris. In the United States he studied at New York University, University of Iowa, and the Institute of Design, Chicago. He was recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1960. Mr. Rickey's long teaching career has included posts at several American colleges and universities, and most recently as sculptor at DAAD Art Program in Berlin. He was director of the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and taught at Kalamazoo College from 1939 to 1941.

George Rickey has authored the book *Constructivism: Origins and Evolutions*. In turn his own work has been the subject of numerous articles and books, including a comprehensive monograph to be published this year.

Mr. Rickey's sculpture has been exhibited in the major art galleries and museums of this country and in Europe. His work is represented in collections throughout the world, and an important work has its place in the north court of the Genevieve and Donald Gilmore Art Center.

In describing his own career, Mr. Rickey remarks: "I was a long time getting over youth, misgivings, inexperience. I was a painter for twenty years. I have been a teacher for thirty-five. In 1930, I was a Cubist. In 1950, age forty-three, I had become a sculptor, non-objective, and was soon committed to movement as a means..." And he continues: "If one makes a moving thing, one is always surprised at the movement itself no matter how preconceived the design." His sculptures are subtly engineered metal forms which move as the result of wind and weights. These forms are indeed so rich in their patterns of movement, they seem almost to defy gravity.

In every respect, Mr. Rickey is a major American artist of this century. His sculptures embody a new conception of free movement. Many of these works now stand in important public spaces both here and abroad.

Therefore, on behalf of the Faculty of Kalamazoo College, I recommend that upon GEORGE WARREN RICKEY be conferred the honorary degree, Doctor of Fine Arts.