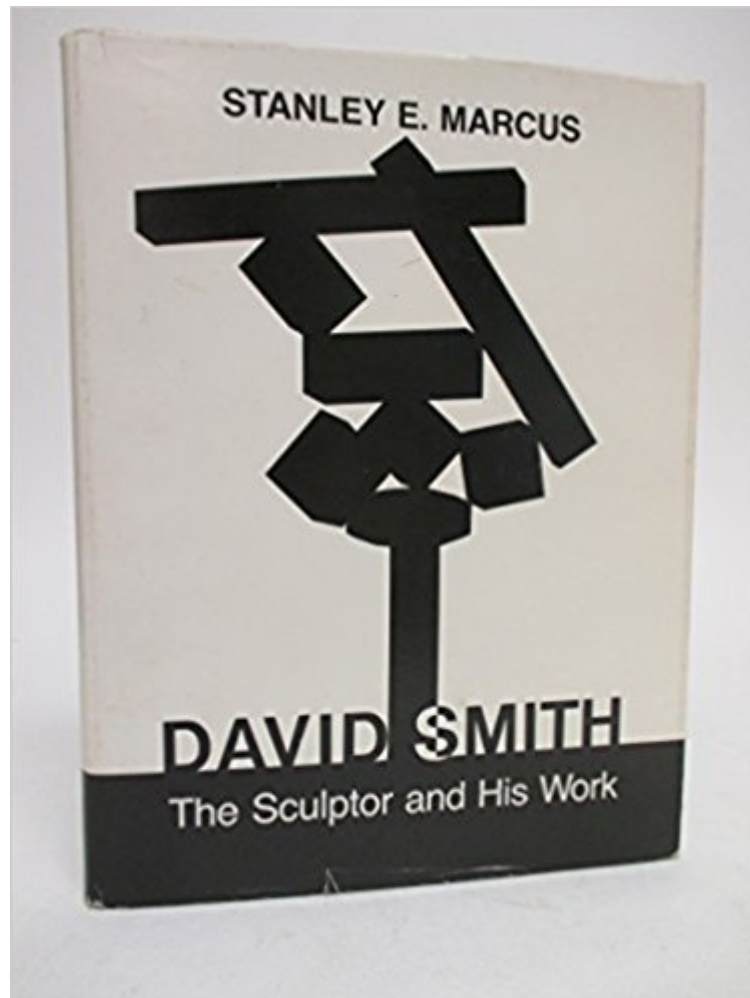




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David Smith: The Sculptor And His Work



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Book by Marcus, Stanley E.

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Customer Reviews

Book by Marcus, Stanley E.

I'm appalled it took me so long to find this book, thirty plus years after a sculptor friend Mike Sweeney took a group of us to Storm King Art Center and exposed me to editor Cleve Gray's excellent "David Smith by David Smith." Stanley Marcus' book may be even better, certainly darn near essential. Marcus focuses almost totally on Smith as a sculptor rather than treating Smith's drawings/paintings as anything much more than preliminary sketches or working out of artistic problems. Marcus also profits from close contacts with Smith's daughters Rebecca and Candida and his first wife Dorothy Dehner. In addition, Marcus is himself a sculptor in welded steel and his comments on Smith's technical problems/solutions with welding are a revelation. Further, Marcus is an art critic/educator of the old school. By this I mean he focuses on what the artist was trying to do in terms of image and work rather than speculating on how an artist might respond to present day neo-Marxist or gender theories (as some modern critics do.) Lastly, and most thrilling are a generous handful of photos of Smith's pieces taken by the sculptor himself. These are worth the price of admission to me. I can only believe Smith took extra care in these photos to have them show each sculpture's essence. I'm already re-reading this and poring over all the photos. There is even a photo of the yard at Bolton Landing with its forest of stainless steel forms!

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