THE DAVID AND ALFRED SMART MUSEUM OF ART  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
NEWS RELEASE  

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
15 May 1991  

CONTACT: Rachel Lerner  
Public Info. Officer  
(312) 702-0176  

SCOTT BURTON’S SCULPTURE "BENCH AND TABLE"  

TO BE INSTALLED AT THE SMART MUSEUM OF ART ON 7 JUNE 1991  

Scott Burton’s red granite sculpture "Bench and Table" (designed 1988, realized 1991), a gift from the Smart Family Foundation in honor of Vera and A.D. Elden, will be officially installed at a dedication ceremony in the Vera and A. D. Elden Sculpture Garden on Friday, 7 June, at 2:30 p.m. Judith Russi Kirshner, noted critic and Director of the School of Art and Design at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will make the opening remarks.

A major American artist who won critical acclaim during the last three decades, Burton (1939-1989) succeeded in melding the genres of sculpture and furniture, infusing the aesthetic object with utility and comfort. "Bench and Table", among the last pieces Burton produced, consists of a solid granite cylinder table rising vertically from the ground, embraced by a C-shaped granite bench. Reminiscent of a cafe table and chairs, the sculpture demonstrates Burton's concern for socially useful art. His intentions ultimately derive from Russian constructivist principles in the early 20th century  

(more)
which put geometric abstractions at the service of utopian social ideals. The bench which exemplifies the continuing influence of Minimalism in the art of the late 20th century, and will serve as functional furniture for visitors to the University and the Museum to use while enjoying sunny days in the Smart Museum courtyard. The Elden Sculpture Garden, a gift to the museum from the Smart Family Foundation, was dedicated in October 1988.

"We are very pleased to welcome this important work to our expanding sculpture garden," said Teri J. Edelstein, Director of the Smart Museum. "This sculpture is intimately tied to the philosophy of what the Museum should be to the campus and the surrounding neighborhood -- welcoming, visible, a place for contemplation and understanding of significant works of art."

The Smart Museum of Art is located at 5550 S. Greenwood Ave. in Hyde Park on the campus of the University of Chicago. Museum hours are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; noon to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free. For further information call (312) 702-0200.

###

The David and Alfred Smart Museum of Art  5550 S. Greenwood Ave. Chicago, IL 60637