



## **FRANK STELLA (1936-2024)**

### **Dadap**

stainless steel and aluminum

66 1/2 x 50 1/4 x 19 in.

168.91 x 127.64 x 48.26 cm

2002

45587

### **PROVENANCE:**

Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York

Private Collection, 2003-2016

Sale: Sotheby's New York, Thursday, May 12, 2016, lot 228

Private Collection, acquired from the above

Frank Stella's Bali series of sculptures is characterized by float and flow forms, extending into the viewer's space and inviting interaction between the object and its environment. The "dadap," a type of tree associated with growth and ritual significance in Balinese culture, mirrors Stella's sculptures' organic and dynamic nature. In shifting to stainless steel and aluminum from bamboo, Stella has preserved the essential nature of Balinese aesthetics that extol forms that are organic, fluid, and dynamically engage with their space. Dadap presents a continuity in Stella's thematic exploration where the spirit of his work transcends the materiality. Metal affords a different texture, reflectivity, and interaction with light and space, yet it adheres to the principles of movement and interactivity. It is a creative transference of form and concept across different mediums, retaining the spirit of the initial inspiration while allowing the new material's properties to express these ideas in a fresh context.

Frank Stella (b. 1936) is an American painter and printmaker, noted for his work in the areas of minimalism and post-painterly abstraction. Stella's work was included in several important exhibitions that defined 1960s art, among them the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum's "The Shaped Canvas" (1965) and "Systemic Painting" (1966). The Museum of Modern Art in New York presented a retrospective of Stella's work in 1970. His art has since been the subject of several retrospectives in the United States, Europe, and Japan. In 2012, a retrospective of Stella's career was shown at the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg. In 2015, The Whitney Museum of American Art is presenting a retrospective of Stella's career to date. The show will feature approximately one hundred twenty works, including paintings, reliefs, maquettes, sculptures, and drawings. Stella's work is included in major international collections, including the Menil Collection, Houston; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; National Gallery of Art; the Toledo Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. In 2014, Stella gave his sculpture "Adjoeman" (2004) as a long-term loan to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Among the many honors he has received was an invitation from Harvard University to give the Charles Eliot Norton Lectures in 1984. Calling for a rejuvenation of abstraction by achieving the depth of baroque painting, these six talks were published by Harvard University Press in 1986 under the title "Working Space". In 2009, Frank Stella was

awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama. In 2011, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Contemporary Sculpture by the International Sculpture Center.

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