

# *Forward*

**title**

**artist**

**William King**



**Location**

Northeast of Parks Library on the corner of Osborn and Union Drives

**Material**

Aluminum

**Size**

114 x 240 x 82 inches

**Date**

1984

## **About the Art**

*Forward* has come to represent the students of Iowa State as they pass in a steady direction through a campus life of academics and activities.

*Forward* was originally loaned to University Museums by William King in 1990 and was subsequently purchased by Iowa State Alumni James and Barbara Palmer in 1991 as a gift to the University Museums' permanent collection. *Forward* is resited every five years on the Iowa State campus, thus making the sculpture more visually and intellectually accessible to students.

## **About the Artist**

William King (b. 1929) was born in Florida. From 1942-44 he attended the University of Florida. For a short time afterward, King worked for Pan American Airways repairing seaplanes. He then studied at the Cooper Union Art School in New York City, and in 1949 won a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Rome at the Academia dei Belle Arti. Since the 1960s King has lived and exhibited in and around New York City creating sculpture in bronze, wood, ceramic, metal, and plastic.

University Museums - Art on Campus Program  
Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

King has exhibited at art institutions such as Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art. He has been shown at galleries across the country, most recently in a solo show at the Alexandre Gallery in New York City which received acclaim from the *NY Times*. His art is in collections from renowned establishments such as the Guggenheim Museum of Art, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as private owners. His sculptures adorn college campuses across the nation, public spaces such Penn's Landing in Philadelphia, PA, and smaller public collections like Guild Hall, East Hampton, NY. In 2007 King received the Life Time Achievement Award from the International Sculpture Center. [sculpture.org]

## Artist's Comments

*My work looks to me like out-and-out classical sculpture. It is right in the sculptural tradition. I see a lot of things I like in fifth-century B.C. Greek art in my work. Same goes for Renaissance art or Aboriginal art. I have a fixed sneer in my aesthetic heart for almost everyone working today.*

**William King**

as quoted by Harriet Senie  
in "King's Kingdom," *Art News*, Summer, 1986

## About the Art on Campus Collection

Iowa State University is home to one of the largest campus public art programs in the United States. Over 2000 works of public art, including selection by significant regional, national, and international artists, are located across campus in buildings, courtyards, open spaces, and offices. In 1982, the University Museums created the Art on Campus Program that codifies acquisition, education, and care and conservation of the campus public art collection.

The foundations of the contemporary Art on Campus Program began during the Depression in the 1930s when Iowa State College's President Hughes envisioned that, "The arts would enrich and provide substantial intellectual exploration into our college curricula." In 1978, Iowa passed the Iowa Art in State Buildings legislation, which requires .5 percent of new construction or remodeling funds to be used to acquire public art. Since 1978, Iowa State has completed Art in State Building projects, commissioned or acquired public works of art, and involved faculty, students, and staff in the commissioning and acquisition processes.

### Parks Library

*Forward*

Art on Campus accession number U93.20

Additional information on public art, other Art on Campus information sheets, and Art on Campus maps are available at the University Museums office, 290 Scheman Building, (515) 294-3342, or visit us online at [www.museums.iastate.edu](http://www.museums.iastate.edu)

**This information sheet is intended to be used in addition to viewing the Art on Campus Collection.  
At no time should this sheet be used as a substitute for experiencing the art in person.**

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