

**title*****Stride*****artist****William King****Location**Lied Recreation and Athletic Facility,  
west entrance**Material**  
Aluminum**Size**

180 x 139 1/8 x 104 5/16 inches

**Date**

1990

**About the Work of Art**

The Lied Recreation and Athletic Facility is always bustling with activity. Students, faculty, and staff utilize this large multipurpose building for athletic recreation and inter-collegiate competition. This theme of energetic activity is what William King references in his sculpture, *Stride*. The sculpture is located near the west entrance to welcome building users and realize the facility's purpose and function.

*Stride* represents three athletes striving for victory in the midst of competition. Their straight, flat aluminum bodies are held together at the joints by visible nuts and bolts, similar to other sculptures by William King including *Forward* on the ISU campus. The running figures' bodies have been reduced to represent just the simple basics of motion. They appear to be captured at the very moment of crossing the finish line much like a picture taken at a photo finish or the chasing of a stray ball. This sculpture not only tells of the activity occurring within the building, but perhaps also provides a bit of athletic inspiration and motivation to its users.

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

## About the Artist

William King (American b. 1925) was born in Florida and 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.

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 held privately. 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]

## 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.

## Lied Recreation and Athletic Facility

*Stride*

Art on Campus accession number U90.25

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.**

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

# Art on Campus Poetry Collection

## The Stride

Commissioned in 1992 by University Museums and inspired by William King's *Stride*

I step and stride and keep a steady pace.  
What laps, oh what long laps I ran  
around in circles before this day began  
to train my aching muscles to ready for the race.

We spend ourselves and pay our dues, the price  
for minutes saved—a second off the best, a man,  
a woman out in front, trial down,  
heat won, our gain, the very time we lose.

Neck and neck, I am but a nose ahead.  
I am but a breath, a molecule of air.  
What's never really seen, to coin a term,  
is my reserve, the fuel, smokey furnace fed.

My will, my all, I hold until the end.  
Then dash and sprint, and watch my money burn.

Mary Swander  
Ames, Iowa