Inside Art

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Back to Bryant Park

Bryant Park has a reputation for attracting a large lunchtime crowd as soon as the weather warms up, but it has only occasionally been a spot where people go to see public art. From Thursday through April 10, however, it will be the setting for “One-Two-Three,” a 2,700-pound black steel sculpture from 1967 by Tony Smith. He "was one of the first artists to put contemporary art in New York City parks," said the exhibition’s organizer, Doreen Remen, a founder of the Art Production Fund. In a way it is a homecoming for Smith. In 1967 he had a show of eight plywood sculptures in Bryant Park.

A leading American Minimalist, Smith created more than 50 large-scale sculptures from 1960 to his death, in 1980. This sculpture, made of three modular units, will be installed on the lawn near the fountain terrace, at the park’s western entrance on Sixth Avenue at 41st Street, and passers-by will be able to see it. The sculpture is on loan from Smith’s estate.