

Betty Gold (b. 1935)  
*Kaikoo III*, 1990  
Steel and enamel red paint  
12 feet x 54 inches x 41 inches  
Inscribed with artist's monogram: BG  
Gift of David and Micki Chatkin/December 17, 1990

Betty Gold, the internationally renowned artist who created *Kaikoo III*, was born in 1935 in Austin, TX. After earning a degree in Elementary Education and Art History from the University of Texas, she entered into an apprenticeship with the sculptor Octavio Medillan in Dallas, TX. In 1990 the Town of Vail was fortunate to receive a monumental welded steel sculpture by Gold, from patrons and philanthropists David and Micki Chatkin of Pittsburgh, PA. The Chatkins donate one of Gold's sculptures every year to a non-profit organization of Gold's choice, and in 1990 she chose Vail's Art in Public Places.

A dedication ceremony took place in February of 1991 in conjunction with an exhibition of her paintings, and maquettes (or working models for her larger scaled work) at the former gallery Arnesen Fine Arts in Lionshead.

*Kaikoo III* is one sculpture in a series of 17 works inspired by a trip to Hawaii. In a recent telephone conversation, Gold reminisced of her trip that would prove pivotal to her work. She was unable to enjoy the water activities and snorkeling because of the "kaikoo," the Hawaiian word for high tide. Since she could not enjoy the water, she found a desk and began creating the maquettes that would become the 17 monumental steel sculptures in her Kaikoo series. "I turned my energy into work," explains Gold.

Gold begins her work with the form of a simple rectangle and "cuts it up." She reassembles her divided rectangle into three dimensional working maquettes and the ultimate result is the dramatic non-objective geometrical steel sculpture. The elements of her works are welded into one, creating a "holistic" monumental work. Bold in color, most of Gold's sculptures are painted in primary colors, occasionally in white or in their natural steel patina.

Three of the Kaikoo series exist. One of the series in its entirety may be viewed at the Walker Hill Art Museum in Seoul, Korea. Her work is in hundreds of public and private collections around the world. Gold's sculptures may be found at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, The Frederick R. Weisman Museum of art at Pepperdine University, the Duke University Medical Center, Baylor University, the U.S. Embassy in Slovakia, the Ronald Reagan California State Building, the National Museum of Contemporary Art in Seoul, Korea, The Albuquerque Art Museum, and the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid, to mention only a few.

Gold currently resides between Venice, CA and Palma de Mallorca, Spain and is actively working on sculptures for forthcoming international exhibitions.

- Molly Eppard, Art in Public Places Coordinator