

# JFK Doodles Put in Bronze

By Martin Weil

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Five years ago, President John F. Kennedy sketched a stack of triangles connected by curves on White House stationery bearing the agenda for the Cabinet meeting of Nov. 9, 1961.

Last night, the doodle, faithfully transformed into a seven-foot structure of gleaming bronze and titled "Man," went on display at the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia neighborhood museum, 2405 Nichols ave. se.

Last night was the first public showing of "Man" and of the 20 other wood and metal structures into which Washington designer Ralph M. Tate has transformed a collection of the late President's doodles.

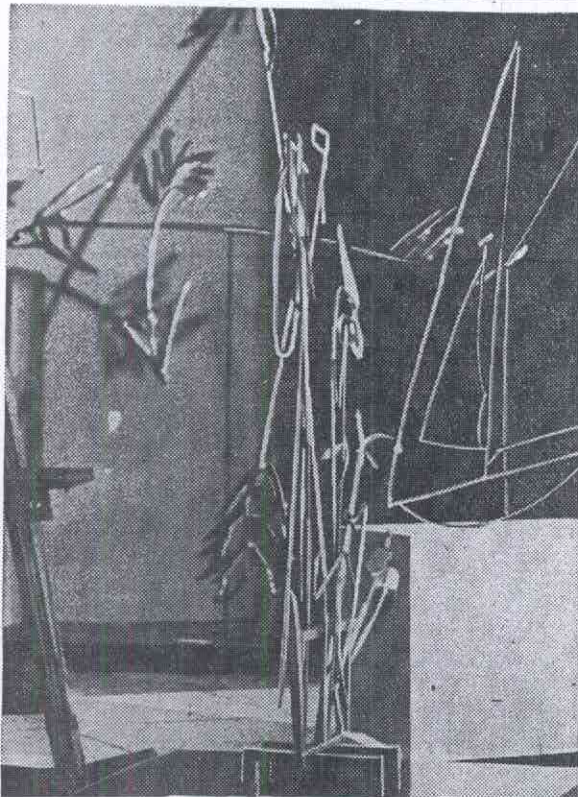
Louis Mark Scher, a Washington lawyer who

died in 1966, obtained the doodles from the White House and brought copies to Tate in 1965, hoping somehow to transform them into art worthy of exhibit.

"When he told me first whose they were," Tate recalled, "I was struck dumb." Then he set to work.

After photographically enlarging the two- to three-inch doodles to lengths as great as 12 feet, Tate "tried to duplicate the doodles exactly, in every detail." For the most part, he used the techniques of welding and brazing on tubes and sheets of brass, aluminum and steel.

Most of the titles to the sculptures were conceived by Scher. Tate prefers to leave interpretation of the doodles to the viewer.

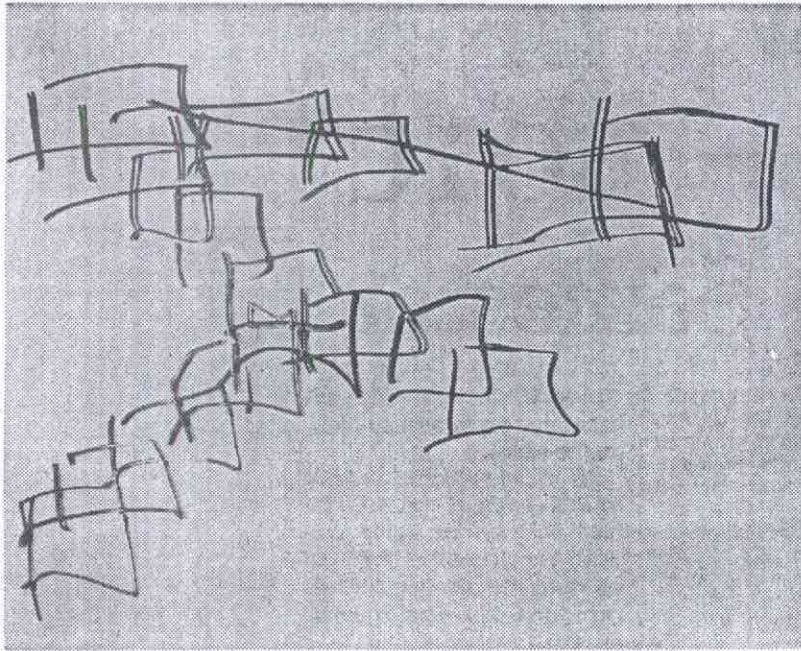


Photos by Vic Casamento—The Washington Post

A tangle of JFK doodles by Ralph M. Tate.

*My walnut lumber used*





This brass doodle is called "Floatation" and the creator, Tate, is at right.

But many of the doodles appear to have basic similarities and to suggest ideas that many associate with the late President.

In many, there is an un-

mistakable suggestion of upward motion. Some are stacks of rising triangles. Others are upward-growing groups of squares. One sculpture is titled "Arrows,"

another, "Mission," and another, simply "Up."

Another basic theme is exemplified by sculptures labeled "Sailboat," "Sloop" and "Boat."

Tate said "Man" has been donated to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He said he hopes to offer Mrs. Kennedy a sculpture of her choice.