Mark di Suvero
American, b. 1933

Helmholtz
Painted steel and stainless steel, 1985
Courtesy of the artist, 1986.03
Di Suvero worked in construction for a time and drew inspiration (and salvaged materials) from the sites where he worked.

The artist learned how to use a crane to build large-scale sculptures while recovering from an elevator crash that left him with severe spinal injuries.

In 2013, Helmholtz was damaged in a car accident. Mark di Suvero himself oversaw the repairs, which took over a year to complete.

The sculpture celebrated the 50th anniversary of Rea Magnet Wire’s business in Fort Wayne. Its name honors physicist Hermann von Helmholtz, who specialized in magnetic field research.