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Contact: Ross Powell  
Marketing Director | Kirkpatrick Group  
405.833.2552 | [rpowell@kirkpatrickoil.com](mailto:rpowell@kirkpatrickoil.com)

### Artist's Background

Kenneth Snelson  
*Sleeping Dragon*, 2002-2003  
Aluminum and stainless steel  
Edition of 3

Born in Pendleton, Oregon in 1927, Kenneth Snelson graduated from the University of Oregon and served in the US Navy in World War II. After the war he enrolled at Black Mountain College in North Carolina where he studied with Josef Albers and encountered Buckminster Fuller. In 1951 Snelson studied with Léger at the Academie Montmartre in Paris and by 1960 created his first large-scale works whereby he entered a new, innovative artistic territory. He lives and works in New York.

Humans have been weaving as far back as our history goes, and the current structure, *Sleeping Dragon*, is based on these principles. Mr. Snelson invented or reinvented 3D weaving in 1965. It also incorporates the tenants of tensegrity. A series of metal tubes is "woven" together with a series of wire cables that do not pass through the tubes, but are attached on each end. They are then adjusted to give the structure firmness. While the structures are a unique engineering feat, they are meant to exist on their own, in the words of the artist, "as wondrous essence of elementary structure."

*Sleeping Dragon* is part of the Christian K. Keese Collection. It will be on permanent display at 1001 W. Wilshire in Oklahoma City, OK.

*"My art is concerned with nature in its primary aspect, the patterns of physical force in three dimensional space." – Kenneth Snelson*