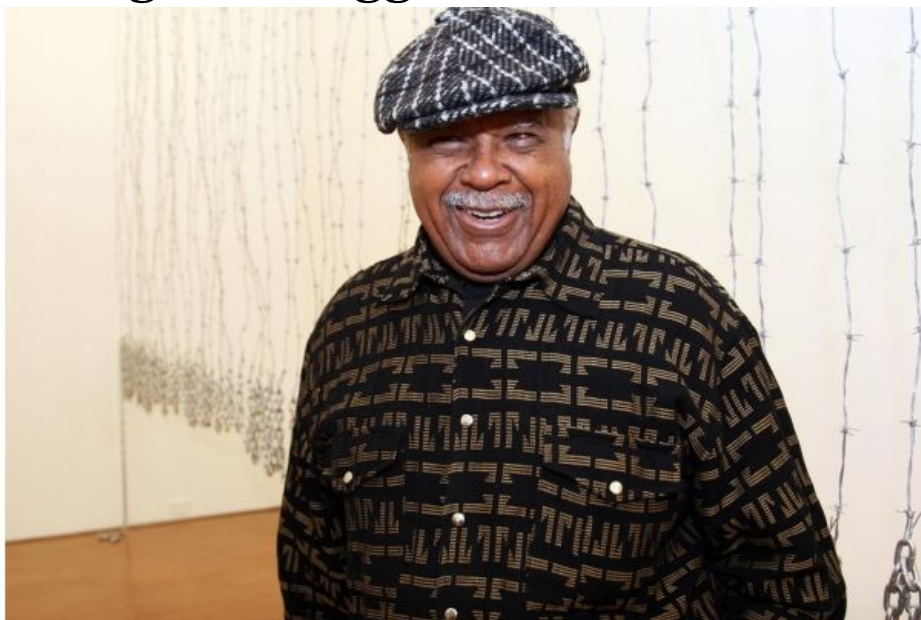


# The Columbus Dispatch

EXHIBIT | COLUMBUS MUSEUM OF ART

## Retrospective features Melvin Edwards' work depicting civil-rights struggle



ALEXANDER GRAY ASSOCIATES

The retrospective “Melvin Edwards: Five Decades” will include works from the sculptor's provocative “Lynch Fragments” series.

“**Melvin Edwards: Five Decades**” will open on Friday, Feb. 12, and continue through May 8 at the Columbus Museum of Art, 480 E. Broad St.

Edwards will appear Thursday evening, Feb. 11, at a members’ preview.

Regular museum hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays, until 9 p.m. Thursdays.

Admission: \$14 adults, \$8 students and senior citizens, \$5 ages 6 to 17, free for ages 5 and younger and free to all on Sundays.

Call 614-221-4848, or visit [www.columbusmuseum.org](http://www.columbusmuseum.org)

By [Nancy Gilson](#)

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For more than 50 years, Melvin Edwards has commented on issues of civil rights and social justice through his sculptures, especially the provocative “Lynch Fragments” series.

The small-scale, abstract works of welded steel, now numbering more than 200, incorporate chains and shackles as well as railroad ties, spikes and tool fragments to conjure up thoughts of history, slavery, sacrifice and protest.

“Lynching is a form of racial genocide and intimidation,” Edwards said. “In my work, it became a strong dynamic. It’s not the only aspect of my work, but it’s a broad enough parameter that I can go in any creative direction.”

Works from the “Lynch Fragments” series as well as other sculptures from the 1960s to the present — about 85 pieces in all — will make up “Melvin Edwards: Five Decades,” opening Friday in the new wing of the Columbus Museum of Art.

Edwards’ sculptures “are very powerful works and also very intimate,” said Tyler Cann, curator of contemporary art for the museum.



Cann said that Edward achieves potent meaning using materials such as ax heads, shovels, chains and pieces of metal.

“But it’s also the way in which those are put together and constructed in a form that you can relate to in an empathetic way,” he said.

“I think his humanity jumps through in his work.”

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