



Eternal Hexagon 6

Date

1964

Primary Maker

Robert Indiana

Medium

screen print

Description

The number 6 is one of a series of numbers Indiana started painting around 1960. In this early work, the numeral is reiterated by a six-sided hexagon that references in shape, if not color, the ubiquitous stop signs that dot America's roads. Indiana calls the shape

"eternal," and in its geometric symmetry and simplicity, it is. Throughout the sixties Indiana's compositions often featured multiple sixes. Some referred to his father's employment for Phillips 66 Oil. Others suggest Route 66, the highway Indiana frequently traversed during his Air Corps days. Indiana's appropriation of the public language of signs undermines a clear understanding of his iconography. In 1956, two years after he arrived in New York City from Indiana, Robert Indiana joined a growing community of artists living and working in derelict warehouses at Coenties Slip, on lower Manhattan's waterfront. At first he produced constructions made out of found objects, including weathered and rusted traffic signs.

Dimensions

Sight: 17 1/2 x 16 1/8 in. (44.5 x 41 cm) Sheet: 24 x 19 7/8 in. (61 x 50.5 cm)