

Michael Granberry

The Nasher Sculpture Center honors five decades of Melvin Edwards' work

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What great timing for the Nasher Sculpture Center. Less than two weeks after the national holiday honoring the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and in a month when the movie *Selma* is playing in theaters, the Nasher is unveiling “Melvin Edwards: Five Decades,” honoring a sculptor whose half-century of work has often probed the history of the civil rights movement. As Nasher officials note in their description of the show, Edwards’ work “spans crucial periods of upheaval and change in American culture and society.” In 1988, *New York Times* critic Michael Brenson lauded Edwards as “one of the best American sculptors ... [and] one of the least known.” Edwards’ work speaks with force and power to the racial tensions and political struggles of the 1960s, to the Vietnam War and to African-American culture as a whole.

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Opens Jan. 31 and runs through May 10 at the Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St., Dallas. \$10; discounts available. 214-242-5100. nashersculpturecenter.org.



"Jeffrey Sturges, courtesy Alexander Gray Associates, New York; S"

"Chaino," by Melvin Edwards, 1964, Welded steel and chains 62 x 102 x 26 in. (157.5 259.1 66 cm)