



# *Seashells*

*by the*

# *Seashore*

Charles Ginnever

# *Nautilus*



# 2-D to 3-D: From Flat to Fantastic!

A sheet of paper is two-dimensional, but when folded it becomes a three-dimensional object. Fold the origami paper square to make a fan. Start at one side and make overlapping zig-zag folds, then flare it open at the top. What shapes and lines did you make?

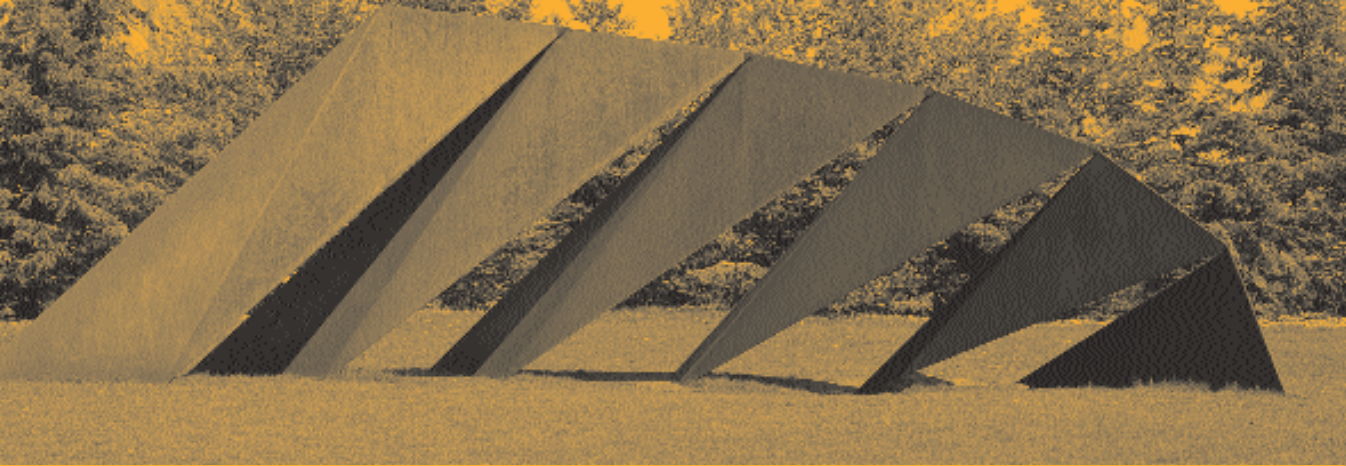


The nautilus has existed for about 400 million years. It is a mollusk—a soft-bodied animal that usually has a hard outer shell, like a clam or snail. As a nautilus grows, it creates a new “compartment” in its shell. The smaller chamber is sealed off and the creature moves into the larger one, building up to as many as 30 perfectly spiraling sections.



"MY OWN WORKS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INVOLVED WITH CHALLENGING HABITS OF PERCEPTION."

— Charles Ginnever



Charles Ginnever American, b. 1931

## *Nautilus* 1976

Cor-Ten steel

Collection Walker Art Center, Minneapolis

Acquired with funds from Dr. and Mrs. John S. Jacoby in memory of John Dixon Jacoby, Suzanne Walker and Thomas N. Gilmore, the Art Center Acquisition Fund, and the National Endowment for the Arts, 1976

Charles Ginnever has been creating large-scale steel sculptures for public spaces since the mid-1960s. The design for his mammoth work *Nautilus* was inspired by the spiraling, chambered shell of the marine mollusk known as the nautilus.

Monumental in size, *Nautilus* is made of Cor-Ten steel, a gray metal that in time rusts and changes to a rich brown. Like Richard Serra's *Five Plates, Two Poles*, also constructed from massive plates of this material, the sculpture's seemingly

precarious balance suggests impending collapse. To understand its spatially complex form, the viewer must circle *Nautilus*, tracing the spiral motion of the progressively sized chambers in order to discover the secret of its simple design: six flat parallelograms have been folded at regularly increasing intervals and welded together. The piece as a whole appears to slowly rise, come apart, and open. The changing light and seasons interact with the surface of the work to create subtly shifting visual effects.

Charles Ginnever often creates monumental steel sculptures. For *Nautilus*, the artist was inspired by the spiraling shell of a sea creature called the nautilus. He made this artwork using six flat parallelograms (basic four-sided geometric shapes), which he folded and welded together. He artfully arranged the metal sections, fanning them out to form a triangular space between each solid part. His idea of bending several flat pieces to make a three-dimensional sculpture came from origami, the Japanese art of paper folding.

WALK AROUND *NAUTILUS*  
TO SEE ITS SPIRAL SHAPE.

How would this artwork look  
if you saw it from above?

IMAGINE THE CREATURE WHO  
LIVES IN THIS "SEASHELL."

What would it look like?  
How big would it be?

COMPARE THE PICTURE OF THE  
NAUTILUS SHELL TO THE SCULPTURE.

How are they alike?  
How are they different?

