



Alan Shields (American, 1944 – 2005)  
*Maze*, 1981 – 1982  
 Acrylic and thread on canvas, cotton  
 belting, Velcro and aluminum pipe  
 87 x 219 x 219 inches  
 Estate of the artist,  
 courtesy Van Doren Waxter, New York

# MOVEMENT & DANCE ENTWINED *IN MOTION*

Falls brings fluid grace and beauty as *Alan Shields: In Motion* makes its debut at The Parrish Art Museum in Water Mill.

BY: GINA SAMAROTTO

**C**urated by Jill Brienza and featuring the work of Alan Shields, The Parrish Art Museum presents *Alan Shields: In Motion* from October 26<sup>th</sup> 2014 through January 19<sup>th</sup> 2015.

In a collection created through the use of non-traditional materials and techniques and reflecting the artist's passion for architecture, theater, and dance; *Alan Shields: In Motion* features sculpture, installations, works on paper and canvas, and stop-frame animations. In accompaniment to the exhibit, a special dance performance by Stephen Petronio Company choreographed with the exhibition's signature work, *Maze* (1981 – 1982), as the set, is scheduled to take place

on Friday, November 7, and Saturday, November 8.

Described by critic Robert Hughes as “a brilliant bricoleur,” Shields reached prominence in the art world in the 1970s with his stained canvases presented in three dimensions. Apropos to the moment yet ahead of the trends, Brienza concurs stating that “Shield’s individuality, craft, and experimentation stood out in its time and continue to resonate today”.

The cornerstone of *Alan Shields: In Motion* is *Maze*, Shields’s largest and most ambitious piece and one that functions simultaneously as a sculpture, a room, and a theatrical installation. Like two other works in the show, *Dance Bag* (1985) and *Ajax* (1972), *Maze* calls for

participation through immersion: Viewers are encouraged to walk over, under, around, and through the pieces in order to become an interactive part of the unique exhibit.

Also debuting at the Parrish Art Museum on October 26<sup>th</sup> is a collection featuring the world of Steven & William Ladd. “It is especially compelling to present *Alan Shields: In Motion* simultaneously with the work of Steven and William Ladd,” says Parrish Art Museum Director Terrie Sultan. “While these artists come to their creativity from very different points of view, they share many points of intersection. There is a performance aspect to each artist’s work, founded in dance and motion, as well as a desire to connect various disciplines within the overall context of their work.”