

# Bloomberg

## **Mechanized Dancer, Dreamy Landscapes, Brancusi Versus Arp: N.Y. Uptown Art**

By Lili Rosboch - Apr 14, 2011

There's no tutu for the terpsichorean in Guenther Uecker's show at [Manhattan's L&M Arts](#).

"New York Dancer I" wears a cape of nails and spins to the rhythm of an electric motor. By stepping on a red button, visitors make the dancer whirl in a noisy blur.

Nails are a recurrent motif in "[The Early Years](#)" exhibition, which displays work from the 1950s through the 1970s.

"The nails represent on the one hand a defense, like ruffled hair, like a hedgehog curling up into a ball, but on the other hand tenderness," Uecker, 81, said in an interview with curator Hans Ulrich Obrist published in the exhibition catalog.



"Diagonal Division" by Guenther Uecker is part of "Guenther Uecker: The Early Years" on view at L&M Arts through April 16. Source: L&M Arts via Bloomberg

In “White Bird,” nails are arranged in the shape of a flying bird. The canvas of “Diagonal Division” is divided in half by a stripe filled with nails. With this simple, beautiful creation and its play of nail shadows, different lines appear as you change your point of view.



"White Bird" by Guenther Uecker is part of "Guenther Uecker: The Early Years" on view at L&M Arts through April 16. Source: L&M Arts via Bloomberg

“Sand Mill” departs from nails for something Uecker has said is derived from agriculture: a circle of sand with a post in the center to which strings are attached. A small motor makes the strings draw and then erase trails in the sand. An accompanying video shows Uecker, dressed in white, installing the piece.

“He took sandbags all the way from [Germany](#),” said Leila Saadai, exhibitions director of L&M Arts.

Prices for works for sale range from \$400,000 to \$500,000. “Guenther Uecker: The Early Years” runs through April 16 at 45 E. 78th St. Information: +1-212-861-0020; <http://www.lmgallery.com>

(Lili Rosboch writes for Muse, the arts and leisure section of Bloomberg News.  
Opinions expressed are her own.)

To contact the reporter on this story: Lili Rosboch in New York  
[erosboch2@bloomberg.net](mailto:erosboch2@bloomberg.net).

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Manuela Hoelterhoff at  
[mhoelterhoff@bloomberg.net](mailto:mhoelterhoff@bloomberg.net).