

Peter Reginato, Poodle, 1975. Steel, 54 x 68 x 70". Courtesy Tibor de Nagy Gallery.

PETER REGINATO

Four new sculptures mark a striking new development in Peter Reginato's work. His sculpture has always maintained a certain integrity-a tough melding of serious sculptural issues with a playful whimsy that is never taken to excess. This quality still characterizes his new series, but the form which it takes is startling in terms of his chunkier, more rounded pieces of the early seventies. The works are fabricated in steel, painted, and invite new and apparently unconnected shapes: none is strictly geometric, resembling abstract leaves, fans, and less organic structures as well. These shapes subliminally repeat themselves, branching out in sprawling positions, occasionally closing in upon the interior space that they form in a complex web based on fundamental simplicity. The colors that Reginato uses are sensuous and smooth, incorporating a quasi-expressionist metallic "wriggle" on the surface of the steel. Leaner and

less intense than his earlier work, this new series marks an important stride for an excellent young sculptor, (Tibor de Nagy, April 19-May 8)