

# Dia:



Walter De Maria  
*The Broken Kilometer*, 1979  
393 West Broadway  
New York, New York

**Walter De Maria**  
***The Broken Kilometer, 1979***

500 highly polished, round, solid brass rods  
5 parallel rows of 100 rods each  
Each rod measures 2 meters in length (6.6 feet)  
and 5 centimeters in diameter (2 inches)  
The spaces between the rods increase by 5 millimeters  
The first two rods of each row are placed 80 millimeters apart,  
the last two rods are placed 570 millimeters apart  
522.6 square meters of floor space (5,625 square feet),  
illuminated by stadium lights  
Total weight of sculpture: 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> tons  
Total length of sculpture (if all of the elements were laid  
end to end): 1,000 meters (3,280.8 feet)

This work is the companion piece to De Maria's 1977 *The Vertical Earth Kilometer* in Kassel, Germany. In that permanently installed earth sculpture, a brass rod of the same diameter, total weight, and total length has been inserted 1,000 meters into the ground.

*The Broken Kilometer* has been on view to the public since 1979. This work was commissioned and is maintained by Dia Art Foundation.

Walter De Maria was born in 1935 in Albany, California, and studied history and art at the University of California, Berkeley. In 1960 he moved to New York City, where he lived and worked until the end of his life. De Maria's early work of the 1960s included music, performance, and writing as well as sculptural and conceptual works. With Robert Whitman in 1963, De Maria founded a gallery at 9 Great Jones Street in New York and exhibited his sculptures there later that year. He also performed as a jazz percussionist with other musicians and joined the band the Primitives, which later evolved into the Velvet Underground. After his first solo gallery exhibition in 1965, De Maria's work was included in the 1966 *Primary Structures* exhibition at the Jewish Museum in New York. He began to create work outside the traditional gallery space, presenting his *Mile Long Drawing* in 1968 in California's Mojave Desert. Beginning in the mid-1970s, Dia commissioned some of the artist's most significant site-specific works, including *The Lightning Field* (1977) in western New Mexico, and *The New York Earth Room* (1977) and *The Broken Kilometer* (1979) in New York City. Dia continues to maintain these long-term installations as well as De Maria's *The Vertical Earth Kilometer* (1977) in Kassel, Germany, which is the companion piece to *The Broken Kilometer*. De Maria died in July 2013.

*The Broken Kilometer* is open Wednesday–Sunday, 12–3 pm, 3:30–6 pm.

An additional work of art by the artist, *The New York Earth Room*, may be seen at 141 Wooster Street, New York.



Dia Art Foundation is committed to advancing, realizing, and preserving the vision of artists. Dia Beacon in Beacon, New York, presents Dia's collection of art from the 1960s to the present as well as special exhibitions, new commissions, and public programs. Dia Chelsea in New York, New York, presents temporary exhibitions, new commissions, performances, lectures, and readings. Dia also maintains several long-term sites, including Walter De Maria's *The New York Earth Room* (1977) and *The Broken Kilometer* (1979), Max Neuhaus's *Times Square* (1977), Joseph Beuys's *7000 Eichen* (*7000 Oaks*, which was inaugurated at Documenta 7 in 1982), all of which are located in New York City; Dia Bridgehampton, the Dan Flavin Art Institute (established in 1983), in Bridgehampton, New York; De Maria's *The Lightning Field* (1977) in western New Mexico; Robert Smithson's *Spiral Jetty* (1970) in Great Salt Lake, Utah; and De Maria's *The Vertical Earth Kilometer* (1977) in Kassel, Germany.

**Dia Beacon**

Riggio Galleries  
3 Beekman Street  
Beacon, New York  
Friday–Monday, 10 am–5 pm  
(November–February, closing at 4 pm)

**Dia Chelsea**

537 West 22nd Street  
New York, New York  
Wednesday–Saturday, 12–6 pm

**Dia Bridgehampton**

The Dan Flavin Art Institute  
23 Corwith Avenue  
Bridgehampton, New York  
Friday–Sunday, 12–3 pm, 3:30–6 pm

Cover: Walter De Maria, *The Broken Kilometer*, 1979. Long-term installation, 393 West Broadway, New York, New York. Photo: Jon Abbott