

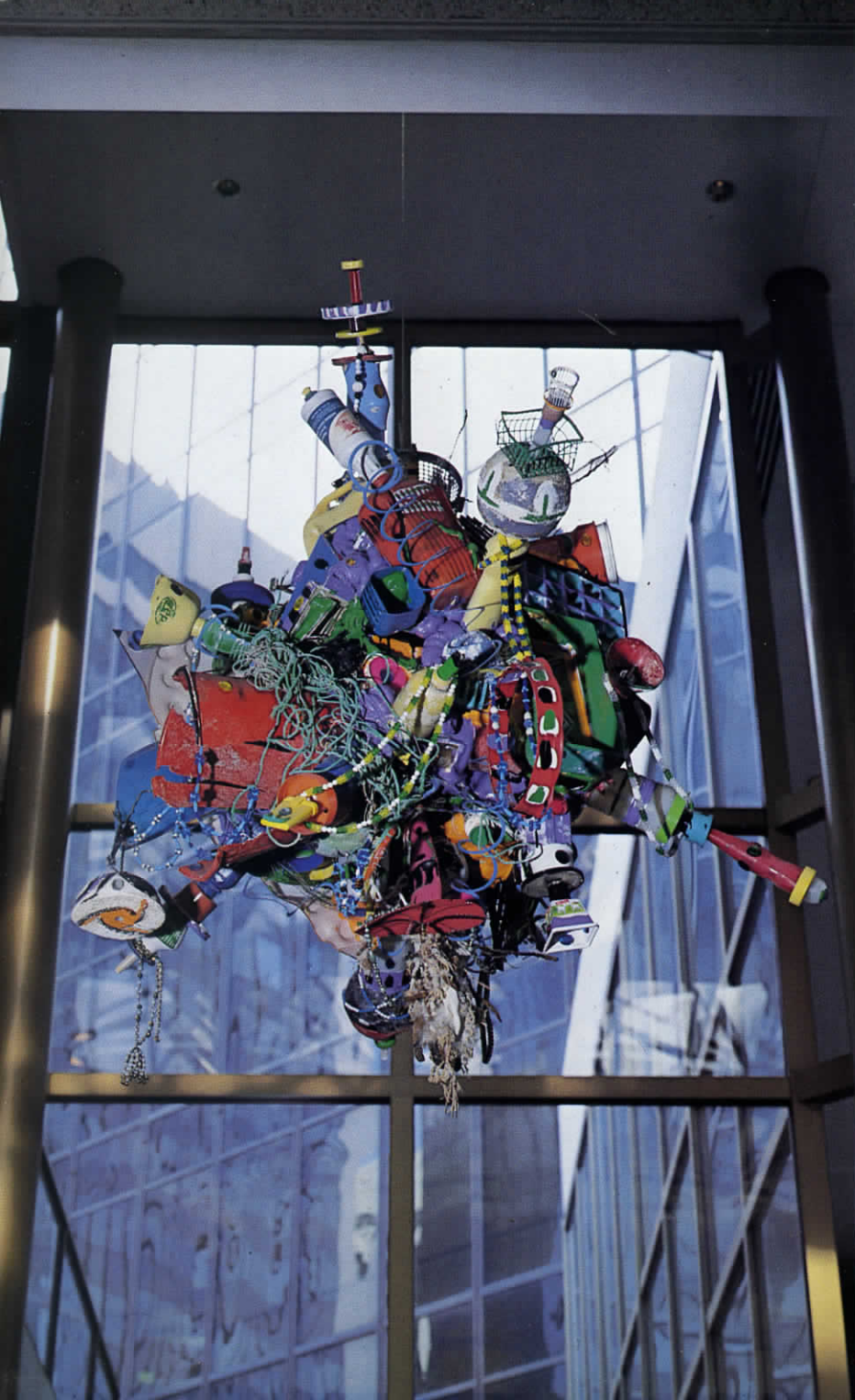
CELEBRATING ART & ARCHITECTURE: CREATING A PLACE FOR PEOPLE

# Civic Virtues

Action!

Light!

On!



**Kenny Scharf**

b. 1958, Los Angeles, CA

*Lixoball*, 1993

Mixed-media sculpture

42 inches diameter

Courtesy Tony Shafrazi Gallery, NY

Kenny Scharf well-known for his colorful, fantastical, Pop-Surrealist paintings makes fun of American popular culture. Tongue-in-cheek, Scharf has called this phenomenon, *Jetsonism*, after the cosmic family cartoon, *The Jetsons*. Scharf himself presents a true aura of authenticity; viewing himself as a bone-fide space-age junk-food LA/East Village suburban downtown part-time androgyne beach bum T.V. flower child. To this day, his work repeatedly underscores the ritual aspects of fun, how enjoyment of life is a keystone of the sacred, how it has become increasingly difficult to have a little honest pleasure in our society. In *Lixoball*, Scharf uses objects he found on the beaches of Portugal—literally trash, or *lixo* in Portuguese—to bring colorful meaning to what our culture has identified as disposable or used up. The ultimate recycler, Scharf uses what we have discarded to represent our identity—we are what we have left behind.