Primary Maker: Biria
Title: Bicycle with light and lock
Date: ca. 2002
Medium: Aluminum, other metals, rubber, plastic
Dimensions: Overall: 43 1/2 × 69 1/4 × 24 1/4 in. (110.5 × 175.9 × 61.6 cm)
Credit Line: Gift of Louise Doktor
Object Number: 2017.13.1

Object Name: Bicycle with light and lock
Classification: TRANSPORTATION TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Curatorial Remarks:
William John “Bill” Cunningham (1929-2016) was a long-time New York Times photographer and journalist known for his “On the Street” and “Evening Hours” columns. As much a cultural anthropologist as he was a fashion photographer, Cunningham was known for candid street or event photographs of New Yorkers that depicted up-to-the-minute fashion trends. Among Cunningham’s favorite locations to photograph his candid shots was at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Fifty-Seventh Street and at the “up-to-twenty galas” he attended each week. To achieve his iconic photographs, Cunningham often circulated around the city on a bicycle. This bicycle is one of thirty that he owned over his many years of activity. It was made by Biria, a German manufacturer of bicycles designed for short rides on flat, urban surfaces. As indicated by the “Ciel Bicycles” tag also affixed to the bicycle, it was probably
purchased at Ciel Bicycles, “the flagship New York City store of Biria” located at 360 East 65th Street. Related objects include a French worker's jacket, one of several Cunningham regularly wore, as well as a Nikon camera, also one of several he owned and used during his career.

Physical Description:
Bicycle equipped with: Armadillo “All-Condition” front tire; Topline back tire; Tektro brakes; Shimany Tourney TX derailleur; and Greenfield kickstand. Bell Magnus innovation light and Abus lock also affixed to bicycle.

Markings: Frame marked “BIRIA” and “CIEL BICYCLES”
Related Objects: