164.5 x 78.1 x 33.7 cm

**Writing Assignment #1: Description as Ideation**

Under ideal circumstances, an art historian takes cues from the work of art, letting its particularities lead him toward a set of questions from which an interpretation eventually arises. However, too often, the reverse is true: art historians come to a work of art with received ideas about the work, and these ideas ultimately delimit what they find – indeed, what they see – when they tend, belatedly, to the object’s specifics. The point of this exercise, then, is to prioritize looking and preserve it as a generative process.

To that end, please write a 1-2 page (double-spaced) essay on Jeff Koons’ *One Ball Equilibrium Tank (Spalding Dr. J Silver Series)*, 1985. Your essay should consist largely of description, but this description should be connotative and pointed – in other words, it should indulge in metaphor and lead the reader toward the questions that the process of looking generated for you as a viewer. Giving voice to these questions – questions that your essay need not answer – is the other component of this assignment.

Note: if you know little about Jeff Koons and his work, that’s all the better: this assignment isn’t about what you know, it’s about what where looking can take you, when you let the object lead.