

The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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ETCHINGS BY SOL LeWITT

An exhibition of recent etchings by American artist Sol LeWitt will be on view in the third floor Sachs Galleries from October 26 to February 7. Directed by Riva Castleman, Associate Curator in charge of Prints and Illustrated Books, this exhibition contains 47 etchings, the first works in this medium by the artist.

The works on view consist of three sets of etchings containing 41 prints plus six additional prints. "They, like LeWitt's better known structures and wall drawings, are the by-products of the concept or idea which, for him, is the creative act," says Miss Castleman. "Most of LeWitt's drawings are used for the realization of objects, but his systems do not allow for any change that alters his original conception, even when such changes might produce a more 'perfect' visual result," she says.

Since objectification is only the extension of LeWitt's art, most structures and wall drawings are executed by others. Although the etchings in this exhibition were drawn on copper plates by LeWitt, it was the printer Kathan Brown who carried out the arrangements of the plates and colors within each system according to the artist's formula.

"While realization is relatively less important to the artist than the concept itself," Miss Castleman adds, "the basic elements of LeWitt's two-dimensional work -- repeated straight lines and primary colors -- are regulated and unified by the clarity of the etched line."

These etchings were published in 1971 by Parasol Press, New York, and The Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Conn., and were presented to the Museum by the publishers and the artist.

Additional information and photographs available from Diana Goldin, Coordinator of Press Services, and Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 W. 53 St., New York, NY 10019. Phone: (212) 956-7297, -7501.
