

Ellsworth Kelly : 15 works on paper, 1949-1958 : the Museum of Modern Art, September 18, 1997-January 13, 1998

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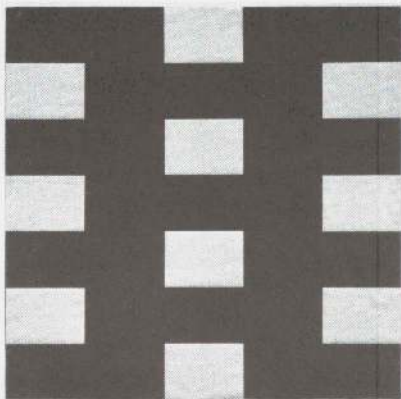
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ELLSWORTH KELLY

15 Works on Paper 1949–1958

The Museum of Modern Art, September 18, 1997–January 13, 1998



White and Black. 1952. Purchase

Ellsworth Kelly's works on paper from the late 1940s to the early 1950s provided the genesis for the ensuing decades of his art. Executed in France, where he lived from 1948 to 1954, the uniquely stylized motifs seen during this early seminal period would establish the basis of his highly individualized language.

Upon his return to the United States in the mid-1950s, he would continue to explore the organic and architectonic shapes of his environment, experimenting with line, mass, and color, as well as with chance operations and control, as he recast his surroundings and progressively distilled them to the consummate abstract idiom of his mature years.

These sketches and studies in pencil, gouache, ink, and even collage—little known until about a decade ago—remained in the artist's personal collection up to the present. The Museum of Modern Art considers itself extremely fortunate to have been able to acquire a group of these crucial works.

The Museum's long-standing commitment to this major American artist and Kelly's commitment to our institution are mirrored in this acquisition, made possible by the enthusiastic support of the Committee on Drawings and a most generous gift by the artist himself. To all those who have contributed to the realization of this project, we express our sincerest gratitude and thanks.

Margit Rowell
Chief Curator
Department of Drawings

Checklist

Tuileries. 1949

Pencil, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (19.7 x 24.8 cm)
Gift of the artist

Study for Window, Museum of Modern Art, Paris. 1949

Ink and pencil, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (41.9 x 30.8 cm)
Purchase

Awnings, Avenue Matignon. 1950

Pencil and gouache, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
(13.3 x 21 cm)
Gift of the artist

Pine Branch. 1950

Pencil, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (41.9 x 51.4 cm)
Gift of the artist

Study for La Combe II. 1950

Cut-and-pasted paper, 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (64.8 x 80 cm)
Purchase

Study for Meschers. 1951

Cut-and-pasted paper, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (49.5 x 49.5 cm)
Gift of the artist

Study for White Plaque: Bridge Arch and Reflection. 1951

Cut-and-pasted paper, 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (51.4 x 36.2 cm)
Gift of the artist in honor of Mr. and
Mrs. Joseph Pulitzer, Jr.

Brushstrokes Cut into Forty-nine Squares and Arranged by Chance. 1951

Cut-and-pasted paper and ink, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14"
(34.9 x 35.6 cm)
Purchase

Spectrum Colors Arranged by Chance II. 1951

Cut-and-pasted paper, 38 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 38 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (97.2 x 97.2 cm)
Purchase

Spectrum Colors Arranged by Chance VI. 1951

Cut-and-pasted paper, 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (94.6 x 94.6 cm)
Purchase

White and Black. 1952

Cut-and-pasted paper, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (49.5 x 49.5 cm)
Purchase

Red and White. 1952

Cut-and-pasted paper, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (49.5 x 49.5 cm)
Gift of the artist

Study for Black Ripe. 1954

Ink, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 19 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (52.4 x 48.9 cm)
Purchase

Study for Rebound. 1955

Ink, 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (44.8 x 46.7 cm)
Gift of the artist in honor of Dorothy Miller

Study for a White Sculpture. 1958

Cut-and-pasted paper and pencil, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
(36.8 x 30.8 cm)
Gift of the artist in honor of Betty Parsons

This brochure is made possible by The Junior
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