

SOL LEWITT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

February 3 to April 4, 1978

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019, Cable: Modernart

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ADVANCE FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION: SOL LeWITT

ITINERARY: The Museum of Modern Art, New York
February 3 - April 4, 1978
Press Preview: February 1, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Musee d'Art Contemporain
Montreal, Canada
September 5 - October 24, 1978

Krannert Art Museum
University of Illinois, Champaign, Illinois
March 4 - April 8, 1979

La Jolla Museum of Contemporary Art
La Jolla, California
May 11 - June 24, 1979

DIRECTOR: Alicia Legg, Associate Curator, Department of Painting and
Sculpture, The Museum of Modern Art

CONTENTS: This retrospective is devoted to one of the major artists of
the last decade, a pioneer figure in the Minimalist movement
of the 1960s, whose work has had a profound influence on the
current generation of Conceptual and post-Conceptual artists.

Sol LeWitt has established an international reputation and has
been the subject of numerous one-man gallery shows and museum
exhibitions in both this country and Europe. However, this
exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art is the first comprehensive
retrospective view of LeWitt's work to be presented by an American
museum.

Although the term Minimal art can imply a limited physical manipula-
tion of material by the artist, and LeWitt's structures and wall
drawings are usually executed under his direction by assistants,
the word "minimal" is used in relation to LeWitt's work in the sense
that his shapes derive from the simplest geometric form -- the cube --
leading to infinite possibilities for variations in both two- and three-
dimensional works. Referring to the Conceptual aspect of his work,
LeWitt has said, "The concept and the idea are different. The former
implies a general direction while the latter is the component. Ideas
implement the concept." For LeWitt, if the thinking is done in advance,
the problems are solved and the execution is secondary.

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Included will be the artist's modular and serial structures, framed drawings, wall drawings, and "bookworks":

Structures

Approximately 24 structures ranging from his reliefs of the early 1960s to the more recent serial works that demonstrate the clarity of logical progression. Among these are his first serial piece, "Serial Project #1 (ABCD)" of 1966, in which he has arranged open and closed modular units on a four-part grid base to present every possible variation or permutation; and "Incomplete Open Cubes" of 1974, in which the linear elements of a cube are explored in 122 eight-inch pieces, beginning with the basic three bars and concluding with 11 bars (12 being needed to complete the cube).

Drawings

LeWitt's first important drawings like the structures were also derived from the grid. They date from 1968 when LeWitt seriously began his serial drawing using the four basic kinds of straight lines (horizontal, vertical, and both diagonals), from which he has gone on to develop the various combinations and permutations. Among the approximate 100 framed drawings in the exhibition is "All Three-Part Variations on Three Different Kinds of Cubes," presenting 71 variations of three stacked cubes in open and/or closed forms.

Wall Drawings

LeWitt's wall drawings evolved in 1968 and embody such concerns as chance and impermanence. They assume their forms according to the space they occupy, following the architectural limitations of a given wall, and incorporating the various elements of that wall. Believing that it is the "idea" that counts, LeWitt puts his instructions in writing for others to follow; hence, there are subtle variations in each execution. There will be approximately 20 wall drawings on view.

Books

Book design is one of LeWitt's greatest interests today. His "bookworks" incorporate all his ideas on form and seriality with the various progressions illustrated in line drawings in black and white as well as in color. Succinct captions serve as the text. They correspond chronologically with his structures and drawings and date from 1966 when his first publications devoted to his serial projects were issued. Approximately 20 books are included in this retrospective.

PUBLICATIONS:

Sol LeWitt. Designed by the artist, edited by Alicia Legg; with essays by Lucy Lippard, Bernice Rose, and Robert Rosenblum. Clothbound \$22.50; paperbound \$12.50. Published by The Museum of Modern Art.

In addition, approximately 15 of LeWitt's "bookworks" will be available for sale in the Museum Bookstores.

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LECTURES:

Sol LeWitt will lecture and discuss his work in a program especially for students and teachers in conjunction with his current exhibition on Saturday, February 11 at 10:00 a.m. Tickets are free and can be obtained at the Lobby Information Desk. Ticket-holders will be invited to view the exhibition after the program.

Two additional lectures presented in conjunction with the SOL LeWITT exhibition will be held Tuesday evenings at 8:30. Tickets at \$4, members \$3, students \$2, available at the Lobby Information Desk.

Mar 14: "Sol LeWitt: An Introduction" -- Robert Rosenblum, Professor of Fine Arts, New York University

Mar 21: "Sol LeWitt: What's In a Name" -- Donald Kuspit, Professor of Art History, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Gallery talks will be given by graduate students on various aspects of the SOL LeWITT exhibition at 1:00 p.m. everyday except Wednesday.

RELATED EXHIBITION: Because so much exhibition space has been given to wall drawings--more will be shown in this exhibition than have ever before been assembled in one place--The Museum of Modern Art is not able to include LeWitt's prints. Fortunately, the Brooklyn Museum concurrently is presenting SOL LeWITT GRAPHICS from February 4 through March 4, providing the opportunity of seeing LeWitt's complete oeuvre in New York.

SOL LeWITT is made possible in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Museum of Modern Art's exhibition program is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency whose funds are recommended by the Governor and appropriated by the State Legislature.