

FACT SHEET

SOL LEWITT: A WALL DRAWING RETROSPECTIVE

WHAT

This landmark installation comprises **105 of American artist Sol LeWitt's large-scale wall drawings**, spanning his career from 1969 to 2007. These occupy nearly an acre of specially built interior walls that have been installed – per LeWitt's own specifications – over three stories of a historic mill building in the heart of MASS MoCA's campus. LeWitt is widely regarded as one of the leading exponents of Minimalism and Conceptual art, known primarily for his geometric structures and dynamic wall drawings. Each wall drawing begins as a set of instructions or a diagram to be followed in executing the work. As the exhibition demonstrates, these straightforward written instructions yield an astonishing – and stunningly beautiful – variety of work that is at once simple and highly complex, rigorous and sensual. This historic exhibition offers an unprecedented opportunity to experience the full trajectory of a critical aspect of this modern master's work.

ORGANIZATION

Conceived by the **Yale University Art Gallery**, New Haven, Connecticut, in collaboration with the artist before his death in April 2007, the project has been undertaken by the Gallery; **MASS MoCA (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art)**, North Adams; and the **Williams College Museum of Art**, Williamstown, Massachusetts.

**PROJECT
LEADERSHIP**

Jock Reynolds, The Henry J. Heinz II Director, Yale University Art Gallery;
Joseph C. Thompson, Director, MASS MoCA;
Lisa Corrin, Director, Williams College Museum of Art;
Anthony Sansotta, Project Manager, LeWitt Studio;
Tomas Ramberg, Project Manager, LeWitt Studio.

WHEN

Opening November 16, 2008; remains on view for twenty-five years.

WHERE

MASS MoCA
North Adams, Massachusetts 01247

The installation occupies Building #7, a three-story, 27,000-square-foot historic mill building that has been fully restored for the exhibition by Bruner/Cott & Associates architects. The structure, which features large banks of windows that open onto flanking courtyards, appealed

to LeWitt as an ideal site for a multi-floor installation of his work. In addition to the new interior partition walls, which LeWitt designed in consultation with Bruner/Cott, his plan for the space left nearly all of the existing exterior masonry walls and large windows intact, providing direct side lighting and offering views to surrounding courtyards and the Berkshire Hills beyond. The architects closely integrated the building into the museum's main circulation plan through a series of elevated walkways, a dramatic new vertical lightwell, and new stairways.

HOW

The drawings were executed over the course of nearly six months by a team of installers comprising twenty-two senior and experienced assistants who worked with the artist over many years; thirty-three student interns from Yale University, Williams College, the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and fourteen other colleges and universities; and thirteen local artists and recent graduates and post-graduates from leading studio-art programs.

CONTENTS

The drawings in the exhibition range from layers of straight lines drawn in black graphite pencil lead, to rows of delicate wavy lines in colored pencil; from bold black-and-white or colored geometric forms, to colored planes in acrylic arranged like the panels of a folding screen; from an even row of brightly colored bands with a "black glossy blob" superimposed on them, to a tangle of looping orange lines on a green wall, and much more. Forms may appear to be flat, to recede in space, or to project into the viewer's space. Materials include graphite, ink wash, acrylic, crayon, marker, and tissue paper.

LENDERS

The works are on loan from numerous private and public collections worldwide, including the Yale University Art Gallery, to which LeWitt designated the gift of a major representation of his wall drawings, as well as his wall-drawing archive.

PROJECT COST

Design & Construction	\$3.7 million
Installation	\$1.1 million
Building Endowment	\$2.5 million

PROJECT FUNDING

To date, Yale University Art Gallery and MASS MoCA have raised more than \$10 million from an array of devoted board members and other notable arts patrons who are supportive of Sol LeWitt's work. In December 2007, Williams College announced a \$1.5 million contribution that will fund teaching exhibitions and public programs during the twenty-five years that the retrospective is extant.

ARCHITECTURE

Bruner/Cott & Associates, Inc., Cambridge, MA
Contractor • Waterman Construction

PUBLICATIONS

The exhibition will be accompanied by *Sol LeWitt: 100 Views*, a 288-page hardcover book with 150 color plates and writings by 100 scholars, artists, architects, and critics. Available in March 2009, it may be ordered through jjoseph@massmoca.org.

The three-volume *Sol LeWitt Wall Drawings: A Catalogue Raisonné* will contain descriptive texts, diagrams, installation photographs, and more, for all 1,261 wall drawings that LeWitt realized from 1968 to 2007. It will be accompanied by a DVD illustrating the proper uses of materials and drawing techniques to be employed in realizing LeWitt's basic "families" of wall drawings. Co-published in 2010 by Yale University Press and Yale University Art Gallery.

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Press Information

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For **Williams College Museum of Art**, Suzanne Silitch: 413.597.3178 or suzanne.a.silitch@williams.edu.