

## ***LeWitt x 2* on View at MAM Through June 3, 2007 Marks the End of an Era**

In memory of pioneering American conceptual artist Sol LeWitt, whose work is currently on view at Miami Art Museum, admission to MAM will be free every weekend until the exhibition closes on June 3, 2007. *LeWitt x 2* is the last exhibition of the artist's work, and of his collection of other artist's work, to be organized during his lifetime. LeWitt, 78, died of complications from cancer on April 8, 2007.

"Sol LeWitt was one of the most important and influential artists of the past half-century," said MAM Director Terence Riley. "His sculptures, wall drawings, and pioneering essays on conceptual art have had an enormous impact on his fellow artists and on all those who have come after him. His achievements and his legendary generosity have made him a pillar of the art community in spite of his instinctive aversion to the limelight and public attention."

*LeWitt x 2* is a two-part exhibition: *Sol LeWitt: Structure and Line*, which provides a retrospective of the artists' own work, and *Selections from The LeWitt Collection*, an insiders' look at the contemporary art collection that he has created with his wife, Carol Androccio.

*Sol LeWitt: Structure and Line* includes 45 works on paper and sculptures by the artist dating from the 1960s to the present.

This section of the exhibition includes drawings, featuring the premiere showing of LeWitt's recent *Scribble* drawings; structures (a term the artist prefers for his three-dimensional works), including examples of his "open cube" series which developed over several decades; and gouache paintings from 1986 to 2005. It also will include a wall drawing commissioned by MAM for this exhibition.

LeWitt's monumental wall drawings—produced for public and private spaces since the 1960s—may be the works for which he is best known. When MoMA presented a retrospective of LeWitt's art in 1978, Curator of Drawing Bernice Rose noted that LeWitt's wall drawings were "as important for drawing as Pollock's use of the drip technique had been for painting in the 1950s." Executed by assistants, sometimes with local help, these works have evolved over the years to include bright geometric and curvilinear paintings.

*Selections from The LeWitt Collection*, the second exhibition component, features approximately 100 works that the LeWitts have collected from friends and fellow artists since the 1960s.

Many of the works in the LeWitt collection were gifts or trades from artist friends, including a number of key works from the early years of the minimalist and conceptual art movements, as well as works by artists associated with the Arte Povera movement. Included in *Selections from the LeWitt Collection* are works by Carl Andre, Alice Aycock, Bernd and Hilla Becher, Jan Dibbets, Jackie Ferrara, Gilbert and George, Eva Hesse, Donald Judd, Alex Katz, Robert Mangold, Brice Marden, Mario Merz, Robert Ryman and Pat Steir.

*LeWitt x 2* has been organized by the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. Generous funding for *LeWitt x 2* has been provided by the Steinhauer Charitable Trust; J.H. Findorff & Son Inc.; Peggy Hedberg and John Niederhuber; John Neis and Chele Isaac; the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission with additional funds from the Endres Mfg. Company Foundation and the Overture Foundation; and the Terry Family Foundation. In Miami, the exhibition is coordinated by Assistant Director for Programs /Senior Curator Peter Boswell. The exhibition is supported by MAM's Annual Exhibition Fund. This exhibition was planned during the tenure of MAM Founding Director Suzanne Delehanty

#### About the Artist

Sol LeWitt was born in Connecticut in 1928. He received a BFA from Syracuse University in 1949. Later, LeWitt moved to New York City where he studied at the School of Visual Arts. He worked as a graphic designer at Seventeen Magazine and in the offices of architect I.M. Pei, before beginning work in the bookshop of the Museum of Modern Art in 1960. At MoMA, his co-workers included artists such as Robert Ryman, Dan Flavin and Robert Mangold. LeWitt began exhibiting in New York in the early 1960s and since then has had many exhibitions in galleries and museums around the world, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, the Gemeentemuseum, The Hague, Holland; the Kunsthalle, Berne, Switzerland; the Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, the Netherlands; the Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, CT; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

#### About the Curator

Dean Swanson, curator for *LeWitt x 2* and author of two essays in the exhibition catalogue, is an independent curator and art consultant who lives in Minneapolis. He has organized numerous exhibitions, many for the Walker Art Center, where he was chief curator from 1968 to 1978, and at the Minnesota Museum of American Art in St. Paul, where he served as director for three years. He has

worked with artists including Joan Miró, Jean Dubuffet, Robert Motherwell, and Robert Rauschenberg.

**Tour Schedule:**

Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (November 5, 2006, to January 14, 2007)  
Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL (February 23–June 3, 2007)  
Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
(September 9–November 18, 2007)  
Austin Museum of Art in Austin, TX (May 24–August 17, 2008).

**Publication:**

A full-color catalogue for *LeWitt x 2*, published by the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, includes essays by Dean Swanson, guest curator for the exhibition, and by Martin Friedman, director emeritus of the Walker Art Center. Friedman retired as Director Emeritus of the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, in 1990. During his more than thirty-five years at the Walker, it became known as one of America's premier museums for collecting, exhibiting, and publishing contemporary visual art. An active author and curator, he recently published *Close Reading: Chuck Close and the Art of the Self-Portrait*.

**Gallery Notes**

This illustrated take-home brochure provides background information on Sol LeWitt's work and an in-depth examination of the exhibition. Available in the galleries. Free.

**Sundays are Free at MAM**

**12 – 5pm**

Guided tours of the exhibition every Sunday at 2pm

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4073 at least five days in advance. Materials in accessible format also may be requested.

Open Tuesday through Friday - 10 AM to 5 PM, Saturday and Sunday – noon to 5 PM. Third Thursdays until 8:30 PM. Closed Monday. Admission for MAM members, children under 12 and students (with valid ID) is free. Adults \$5, seniors \$2.50. Free admission every Sunday and second Saturdays.

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