

SOL LEWITT. Artist's Books

Exhibition

Press Preview: Friday, 21 January, 2011, 11am

Opening: Friday, 21 January, 2011, 8pm

Exhibition runs: 22 January - 13 March, 2011

Open: Fri - Sun, 2-6pm and by appointment

Interdisciplinary Sol LeWitt_ Symposium

19 / 20 February, 2011

The exhibition *SOL LEWITT. Artist's Books* at Art Laboratory Berlin presents the complete oeuvre of 75 artist's books produced by the American conceptual artist Sol LeWitt, dating from 1967 to 2002. It has been put together by Giorgio Maffei and Emanuele de Donno (viindustriale, Foligno, Italy) from different institutions and collections from all over Italy, the adopted country of the artist who died in 2007. This exhibition seeks to examine the unique bibliophile production of the artist.

It is Art Laboratory Berlin's goal to connect theory and practice in this exhibition project. On the one hand the works on exhibition are available for practical study: the artist's books can be studied individually with the help of a gallery assistant. Furthermore, in the rear exhibition space there are a number of primary journals and secondary texts, by and about Sol LeWitt.

On the other hand, Art Laboratory Berlin also wants invite debate as well as a practical study: an interdisciplinary Sol LeWitt_Symposium will take place on 19/20 February, 2011 featuring different points of view from scholars of various disciplines on the artistic practice of Sol LeWitt.

SOL LEWITT Artist's Books, a collaboration between Art Laboratory Berlin and Viindustriale, in Foligno, Italy, has previously been shown in Paris, Sheffield, Istanbul and Ljubljana, and after Berlin the exhibition will travel on to Athens and New York.

In addition to an intensive exhibition program (gallery tours, talks and the possibility of visitors to study the artist's books in detail) Art Laboratory Berlin is also planning an interdisciplinary symposium on the artistic practice of Sol LeWitt during the exhibition.

The American artist Sol LeWitt (1928 - 2007) was an influential figure in minimalism and is considered one of the most important representatives, as well as co-founder, of American conceptual art. He became known for his term "conceptual art": the idea itself and the process with all the intervening steps are as much works of arts as any finished product.

Regarding the room as an object (LeWitt preferred the term „structures“), the wall drawings or his artist's books: the idea itself was always more important than its physical elaboration. Unlike the Minimal Art's expression of abstraction as an object ("objecthood"), Sol LeWitt's work becomes a medium of signs.

LeWitt's intensive artist books production began in the sixties. According to him, these books are neither instructions on how to understand his art, nor simple catalogues but works of art on their own, a mobile medium for a broader public.

The exhibition shows all the plurality of the book production of Sol LeWitt: from early artist books that sketch concepts („Serial Project #1“, 1967) to his works of the seventies and

eighties where he utilises photography („Photogrids“, 1977, „Autobiography“ 1980 or „Chicago“ 2002), from black-and-white booklets to coloured leporellos.

During the exhibition there will be guided tours once a week (each Sunday at 3 p.m.) with the possibility to study the artist's books in detail. Furthermore we offer to arrange individual guided tours or seminars. We thank the collector Paul Maenz, who has lent us Sol LeWitt's WALL DRAWING #233 *Location of a Triangle* (1974) for the duration of the exhibition.

Interdisciplinary Symposium_Sol LeWitt

The occasion of having assembled all the artist books of Sol LeWitt in one exhibition offers the possibility to study his work intensively. Just as with earlier exhibitions at Art Laboratory Berlin, we plan to connect artistic practice and a scholarly approach by means of a symposium. The interdisciplinary symposium seeks to bring together art historians, literary scholars, philosophers, mathematicians and visual artists to give presentations and discuss the manifold creative approach of Sol LeWitt.

Contributors: Sabeth Buchmann, Aissa Deebi, Annette Gilbert, Paul Maenz, Jonathan Monk, Adrian Piper, Michael Rottmann, Manuela Schöpp, Gregor Stemmrch, Volker Straebel, Ken Wahl.

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