

SOL LEWITT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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Sol LeWitt. Edited by Alicia Legg. 184 pages, 274 illustrations (16 in color). \$22.50 clothbound; \$12.50 paperbound. Published by The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Sol LeWitt, edited by Alicia Legg, is being published February 3 by The Museum of Modern Art in conjunction with its major retrospective of work by one of the major figures in the art of the last decade. Designed by LeWitt himself, the book is the definitive work on the artist to date.

Making books is one of LeWitt's greatest interests today. This comprehensive monograph is to an important degree a book by the artist as well as about him. The entire book has been designed by LeWitt following his own modular principles; the 274 illustrations were selected by LeWitt as a representative presentation of the development of his ideas and his art. Also included in the book are reprints of many of LeWitt's writings, including his two influential pieces from the 60's, "Sentences on Conceptual Art" and "Paragraphs on Conceptual Art."

The LeWitt monograph features essays by critic Lucy Lippard ("The Structures, the Structures and the Wall Drawings, the Structures and the Wall Drawings and the Books"), art historian Robert Rosenblum ("Notes on Sol LeWitt"), and Curator Bernice Rose ("Sol LeWitt and Drawing"). The essays provide independent assessments of the artist's aesthetic and intellectual approach to signal concerns of contemporary art and comment on his role in the Minimal and Conceptual movements.

A pioneer figure in the Minimalist movement in the 1960's, LeWitt has established an international reputation. This work, with its increasing emphasis on the "idea" rather than its concrete realization, has had much to do with the move in avant-garde circles from Minimalism to Conceptualism and

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post-Conceptual art. As Robert Rosenblum states in his essay "over the years now, Sol LeWitt has been looming ever larger as one of the most coherent, innovative, and liberating of those artists who presume to balance the constant eye-mind equation in favor of the mind; but even more to the point, his art has turned out to be stunningly beautiful."

Sol LeWitt covers a wider range than the exhibition it accompanies. It includes in text and illustrations the artist's early geometric, modular, and serial works as well as drawings and his most recent concern, the wall drawings. In her essay Bernice Rose writes that LeWitt's wall drawings are "catalytic, as important for drawing as Pollock's use of the drip technique had been for painting in the 1950's." Adapted to architectural space, both permanent and temporary, the wall drawings incorporate the elements of chance.

Alicia Legg, Director of the exhibition, notes in her Introduction that "LeWitt's concern in a book is conveying information. He believes numerous illustrations are essential to demonstrate the development of his themes. In order to show how ideas are brought to realization, he has devised a system of layout that reveals how ingeniously modular combinations and variations can be exploited." Experienced in graphic design, Sol LeWitt has produced over 30 books exploring his own concepts of art. This volume stands as another original work.