

# SOL LEWITT THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

February 3 to April 4, 1978

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

NO. 1C  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## SOL LEWITT

Sol LeWitt was born on September 9, 1928 in Hartford, Connecticut. After his father's death in 1934, he moved with his mother to New Britain, Connecticut, where he attended elementary and high schools. He graduated from Syracuse University with a BFA in 1949 and served in the U.S. Army in Japan and Korea in 1951-52. In 1953 he settled in New York, attending the Cartoonists and Illustrators School (later known as The School of Visual Arts). From 1954 to 1960 LeWitt worked on his own paintings and also did commercial design including graphic and three-dimensional design for the architect I.M. Pei on a project for the Roosevelt Field Shopping Center in Long Island (1955-56). From 1960 to 1965 LeWitt worked at the Information and Book Sales Desk at The Museum of Modern Art and also worked as night receptionist for the Museum's school. LeWitt has taught at the following New York City art schools: The Art Center of The Museum of Modern Art (1964-67); Cooper Union (1967-68); School of Visual Arts (1969-70); and the Education Department, New York University, Washington Square (1970-71).

In 1963 LeWitt's first three-dimensional works in the Constructivist style were included in a group show at St. Mark's Church in New York. The following year his own style--box forms and geometric reliefs and wall structures--was evident in works included in a group show at the Kaymar Gallery, New York.

In 1965 LeWitt had his first one-person exhibition (of painted wood constructions), at the Daniels Gallery. A year later he made his first modular pieces using open cubic forms; that year he also began combining modules in

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serial form. Since 1969 LeWitt has exhibited internationally, participating in important group exhibitions of sculpture and drawings, as well as shows devoted to Minimal and Conceptual art. In 1968 his first wall drawing was presented at the Paula Cooper Gallery in New York; wall drawings in both black and white and in color have since been seen on five continents.

Sol LeWitt's work has been seen previously at The Museum of Modern Art in a number of major group exhibitions including "The Art of the Real" (1968), "Information" (1970), and "Drawing Now" (1976). In addition, he has been represented in two traveling exhibitions organized by the Museum: "Some Recent American Art" (1974) and "Color as Language" (1975).

In 1967 and 1969 respectively, LeWitt published two influential statements on Conceptual art, "Paragraphs on Conceptual Art" (Artforum, June 1967) and "Sentences on Conceptual Art" (Art-Language, May 1969). In 1976 LeWitt, in conjunction with a group of other artists and critics, founded Printed Matter, a group enterprise whose aim is to publish as well as distribute artists' books.