

PROJECT 6

Sol LeWitt

1977

All two part combinations of arcs from four corners, arcs from four sides, straight, not-straight broken lines in four directions.

March – July 1977

Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney

Lines to points on a grid. On yellow: Lines from the center of the wall. On red: Lines from four sides. On blue: Lines from four corners. On black: Lines from four sides, four corners and the center of the wall.

March – April 1977

National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne

BIOGRAPHY

Sol LeWitt is considered one of the most influential artists of his time. From 1968 to 2007, LeWitt created 1200 wall drawings, reducing his art-making process to a bare vocabulary of lines, curves, geometric shapes and primary colours. These works were distinctive for their method which began with a set of instructions or a simple diagram, executed by people other than the artist at different times and places. LeWitt once wrote, “Ideas can be works of art,” giving greater importance to the idea behind his work rather than its execution.

FACTS

- In 1967 LeWitt famously coined the term conceptual art, “The idea becomes a machine that makes the art.”
- Throughout his career LeWitt created 1200 wall drawings in various locations across the world.
- *The physical properties of the wall; height, length, colour, material and architectural conditions and intrusions, are a necessary part of the wall drawing.*
– Sol LeWitt
- The Art Gallery of NSW wall drawing involved 20 different types of curved, straight, ‘not-straight’ and broken lines and 190 variations on their combination, marked out across the 10m x 31m south wall of the gallery entrance.
- At the time, it was the largest single artwork ever displayed at the Gallery and the largest work LeWitt had completed.
- The concept for this drawing was first realized in 1972 and owned by Italian collector Count Giuseppe Panza di Biumo and ‘lent’ back to LeWitt for temporary use.
- At the National Gallery of Victoria, a 3m x 12m wall was divided into four equal panels and coloured yellow, red, blue and black.
- The three parts red, yellow and blue were originally designed in 1975; the fourth element, black, has previously been shown separately and added to the new display.

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

In 1967, Sol LeWitt famously coined the term 'conceptual art', a pivotal event in the changing environment of art in the 1960s. With a focus on seriality in both form and process, his compositions were expressed through a variety of media, from drawing and painting to artists' books, multiples, furniture, ceramics, photographs, prints and structures. In 1968 LeWitt created his first wall drawing for an exhibition at Paula Cooper Gallery in New York. A revolutionary break with the conventions of the time, it recalled the frescoes of Italian art history and invented an architectural format for his investigations. John Kaldor invited LeWitt to Australia to make wall drawings for Project 6 in 1977, at Sydney's Art Gallery of New South Wales and Melbourne's National Gallery of Victoria.

The wall drawing for the Art Gallery of New South Wales, *All two part combinations of arcs from four corners, arcs from four sides, straight, not-straight broken lines in four directions*, involved combinations of 20 different types of curved, straight, 'not-straight' and broken lines, and 190 variations on their combination, marked out across the 10 x 31 metre south wall of the Entrance Court. It was the largest single artwork ever displayed at the Gallery and the largest work LeWitt had completed to date. From a simple design and equation a multitude of forms were invented.

At the National Gallery of Victoria, a 3 x 12 metre wall was divided into four equal panels and coloured yellow, red, blue and black. Within the coloured squares, straight lines of white chalk were drawn out from set points, intersecting with each other to create patterns and geometric collisions. The work's title describes its construction: *Lines to points on a grid. On yellow: Lines from the center of the wall. On red: Lines from four sides. On blue: Lines from four corners. On black: Lines from four sides, four corners and the center of the wall.*

One of the most influential artists of his generation, LeWitt created an austere, minimalist vocabulary derived from geometric shapes and their linear components. Working in a variety of media, these forms were subjected to an ongoing series of rules and investigations over the artist's 40-year career. LeWitt created more than 1200 wall drawings in different sites and locations around the world, as a unique and important part of his work.

Kaldor Public Art Project 6: Sol LeWitt, *All two part combinations of arcs from four corners, arcs from four sides, straight, not-straight broken lines in four directions*, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, March - July 1977

Image courtesy of Kaldor Public Art Projects



Kaldor Public Art Project 6: Sol LeWitt, *Lines to points on a grid*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, March - April 1977

Image courtesy of Kaldor Public Art Projects

