NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM
OF AMERICAN ART

Beautiful Ideas

The Prints of Sol LeWitt



One of the most influential artists of the late twentieth century, Sol LeWitt (1928–2007) is best known for his minimalist works of monumental scale—wall drawings and modular structures. Alongside these works, however, he generated more than 350 print projects, comprising thousands of lithographs, silkscreens, etchings, aquatints, woodcuts, and linocuts.

Beautiful Ideas: The Prints of Sol LeWitt explores the artist's extensive printmaking, beginning with his earliest efforts and extending through his mature expressions in abstraction. The exhibition is organized in four thematic sections that reflect the diverse formal languages he pursued throughout his career: "Lines, Arcs, Circles, and Grids," "Bands and Colors," "From Geometric Figures to Complex Forms," and "Wavy, Curvy, Loopy Doopy, and in All Directions."

Printmaking proved to be the perfect medium for LeWitt's brand of conceptual art, in which the "idea becomes a machine that makes the art" and its "execution is a perfunctory affair." Relying on predetermined plans and systems, he sought to distance himself and thus avoid any subjective or expressive interference. Instead, his goal was to present a "thought process." Prints were ideal for realizing this rule-based art, ensuring an almost mechanical level of uniformity, multiplication, and variation. As LeWitt's many prints demonstrate, however, ordered and logical ideas often result in contradiction and irrationality, especially in terms of the

Sol LeWitt

Loopy, Doopy, Blue/Red (detail), 2000
Color woodcut
Image: 20 ⅝ x 28 ⅝ in.
New Britain Museum of American Art, Gift of Sol LeWitt

viewer's perceptual experience and the captivating beauty of the artist's colors, geometric forms, and diverse lines, bands, and brushstrokes.

Curated by David S. Areford, professor of art history at the University of Massachusetts Boston, the exhibition is accompanied by an in-depth related publication co-published by the New Britain Museum of American Art, Williams College Museum of Art, and Yale University Press. The exhibition and catalog highlight the essential role of printmaking in LeWitt's oeuvre, deepening our understanding of LeWitt's varied output as well as the genealogy of his distinct geometric and linear visual vocabularies.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

PARTICIPATION FEE

Inquire for fee

CHECKLIST

41 single prints and print series (111 total objects, including 26 print singles and 15 print series). The exhibition is scalable to the needs of each venue.

AVAILABILITY

Starting Spring 2026

SIZE

Customizable, between 2,000 and 6,000 square feet

QUESTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION

For more information about this exhibition and the tour, please contact:

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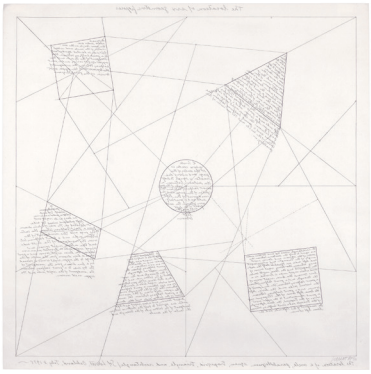
CHECKLIST SELECTIONS



Sol LeWitt

Brushstrokes in All Directions, 1994
Silkscreen
Image: 16 x 16 in.

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Sol LeWitt

The Location of Six Geometric Figures, 1975
Etching
Image: 23 ⅝ × 23 ⅝ in.

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Sol LeWitt

Bands of Lines in Four Directions, 1993
Color woodcut, one from a set of two
Image: 12 ½ x 12 ½ in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Gift of Sol LeWitt



Sol LeWitt

Horizontal Composite (Color), 1970
Silkscreen
Image: 12 × 33 ¹¹⁄₁₆ in.

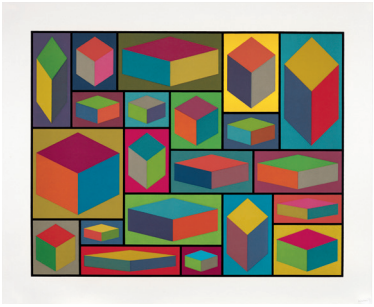
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Sol LeWitt

Whirls and Twirls (Color), 2005
Color linocut, set of two
Image: 15 ⅞ x 46 in.

New Britain Museum of American Art, Gift of Sol LeWitt



Sol LeWitt

Distorted Cubes, 2001
Color linocut, set of five (selection of two)
Image: 28 x 35 ½ in.

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Sol LeWitt

Shul Print (Six-Pointed Star), 2005
Linocut
Image: 23 x 23 in.

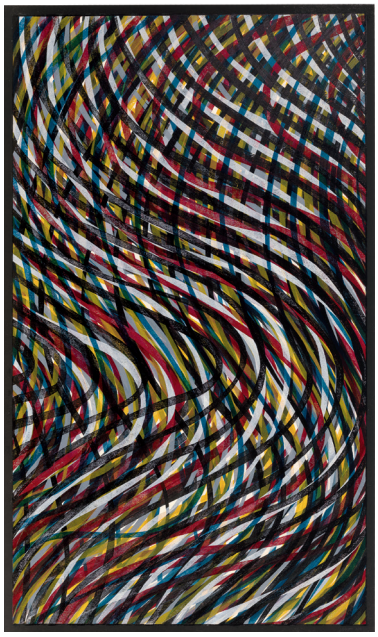
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Sol LeWitt

Complex Forms, 1990
Etching, aquatint, and color aquatint, set of five (selection of two)
Image: 30 x 30 in.

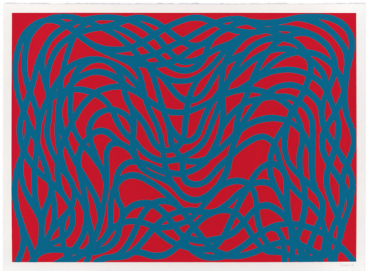
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Sol LeWitt

Wavy Lines (Color), 1995
Color woodcut, set of two
Image: 35 ⅜ x 20 ¾ in.

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Sol LeWitt

Loopy, Doopy, Blue/Red, 2000
Color woodcut
Image: 20 ⅝ x 28 ⅝ in.

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Sol LeWitt

Stars with Color Bands, Plate #07, 1993
Etchings with aquatint, set of eight
Image: 20 ¹¹⁄₁₆ × 20 ⅞ in.

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INSTALLATION VIEWS









