

PAULA COOPER GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Carl Andre, Dan Flavin, Sol LeWitt

521 W 21st Street

January 9 – March 7, 2015

NEW YORK -- The Paula Cooper Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of works by artists Sol LeWitt, Dan Flavin, and Carl Andre.

Sol LeWitt's vibrant *Wall Drawing #992* unfolds in three sections, each consisting of 10,000 straight lines drawn in color marker. Red lines appear on the left panel, yellow in the center, and blue on the right. The number of lines derives from a traditional Taoist concept of ten thousand as an emblem of infinity, and indeed, LeWitt's simple, precise instructions develop into a mesmerizing arrangement of primary colors. The work's unique installation across three distinct, and differently-scaled walls, highlights the collaborative relationship between the artist and the installers, in which LeWitt has provided basic instructions, and the draftsmen have determined the length and placement of the lines.

Dan Flavin's *untitled (to V. Mayakovsky) 1*, 1987, pays homage to Vladimir Mayakovsky the Russian Futurist poet and playwright who witnessed the Russian Revolution and became the voice of his generation's utopian aspirations. The work recalls *the diagonal of May 25, 1963 (to Constantin Brancusi)*, Flavin's first work using common fluorescent lightbulbs and which established the diagonal as a critical early visual theme in his artistic oeuvre. *Mayakovsky* is one of a series shown in 1987 in Chicago, for which the artist used pairs of four-foot lamps in parallel but slightly staggered alignment. The jagged shapes find a natural diagonal determined by placing the edges evenly along the floor.

In 1960, Carl Andre began his *Elements* series, using identical timbers of equal size in various configurations. This series marks the moment when Andre definitively abandoned the manipulation of materials in favor of the simple yet radical juxtaposition of equivalent units. In his 1979 work, *Dracut*, on view in this exhibition, the artist uses as his building blocks pre-cut columns of western red cedar, alternating the rectangular units in horizontal and vertical positions. Andre's interest in timber arose while working as a freight brakeman for the Pennsylvania Railroad. According to the artist, "The railway completely tore me away from the pretensions of art, even my own, and I was back on the horizontal lines of steel and rust and great masses of coal and material, timber, with all kinds of hides and glue and the burdens and weights of the cars themselves."

The show will be on view until February 28, 2015, and coincides with *Carl Andre: Sculpture as Place* at Dia:Beacon and *Sol LeWitt: A Wall Drawing Retrospective* at MASS MoCA (on long-term view until 2033). LeWitt's *Wall Drawing #370* is currently on view at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Paula Cooper Gallery is exhibiting Flavin's *Red and green alternatives (to Sonja)*, 1964, in its storefront space at 529 W. 21ST Street.