

## Sol LeWitt, “Curvy Brushstrokes”



Following the widespread acclaim of action painters and Abstract Expressionists in the 1950s and 60s, the art world began to tire of the hypersubjectivity present in these works by artists such as Jackson Pollack and Willem de Kooning. Through the turn to minimalism, artists hoped to return to

objectivity and simplicity in their works, while continuing to integrate the advancements of full abstraction which allowed artworks to reference only itself for the first time. Michaan's Auctions is proud to offer an important work by minimalist artist Sol LeWitt in our

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upcoming January Gallery Auction on Friday, January 19th.

**Sol LeWitt, Curvy**

**Brushstrokes, Color, aquatint etching** (\$7/9,000) is an etched print with its frame filled, in its entirety, by a series of constantly twisting curving lines. These lines are red, blue, and yellow, and overlap each other significantly and regularly. When they do overlap, secondary colors, green, purple, and orange are evident, as each line is semi-transparent. Despite the constant overlapping, there are very few moments where each of the three primary overlaps to create a brown or black, instead, the piece is almost entirely made of the primary and secondary colors, with plenty of the bare white paper continuing to shine through.

As a minimalist work, the image resists interpretation and is instead

created with the intention to only reference itself and the forms contained within the frame. In this context, the work is best understood as an aesthetic experiment, in this case, focused on the formulaic combination of colors which is undone by the spontaneity of the wandering lines. The work therefore straddles the automatic and the random, and the difficulty in tracing any one line from beginning to end provides the viewer with an engaging experience that is driven by the ultimate inscrutability of its forms.

This work, executed in 1997, represents the culmination of innumerable prior works exploring the nature of aesthetics and perception. It echoes many of the interests found in his wall drawings, which are entirely automatic (and often not even completed by the artist himself, rather being executed according to a plan

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written by LeWitt) while showing evidence of a slow return to subjectivity. The bold color and complex nature of the design are significant departures from the artist's earlier works which are entirely geometric and largely monochromatic.

Sol LeWitt was born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1928. The son of Russian Jewish immigrants, he was introduced to art at an early age by his mother, and, after his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Syracuse University, traveled to Europe to study the Old Masters. LeWitt served in the Korean War, then came to New York, where he continued his studies at the School of Visual Arts. After working at MOMA as a night receptionist, he began to teach at the School of Visual Arts and exhibited his work widely throughout the following decades. He died of cancer complications in 2007.

## **Sol LeWitt, Curvy**

### **Brushstrokes, Color, aquatint**

**etching** (\$7/9,000) will be offered at Michaan's Auctions January Gallery Auction on Friday, January 19th, which features numerous cars in excellent condition in addition to fine examples from the Fine Art and Asian Art departments. The auction is led by a 2023 Tesla Model X in Plaid Trim with only 3,901 miles, a 1966 Ford Mustang Hardtop Coupe, as well as a 1955 Ford Thunderbird. Also included is a Large Gilt Bronze Figure of an Immortal, a notable oil painting by Joseph Henry Sharp, and a 14k yellow gold charm bracelet.

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