MIT List Center Sol Lewitt Wall Drawing

Sol LeWitt, one of the founders of conceptual art, believed in the significance of a works idea or concept over its material realization. As indicated by the title of this work, Wall Drawing #254, LeWitt made many wall drawings. His first in 1968, in pencil on plaster. For each, he created a system with a set of directions to be executed by himself or draftsperson.

Curator, Andrea Miller-Keller: "...saw himself determine where the lines would go. And he did this, not so much, by putting points on a sketch so that he knew where he would like to see the lines, no not at all. Instead, he wrote down directions that were in words and that would take him to a point. In each case, that was unexpected and not based on good design."

The placement of each endpoint is determined by the walls dimensions. The same wall drawing can be done in different places. And in each case, they take on some of the attributes of the location in which it's installed. It also will be installed very likely by different people. And for those who have worked with him a long time, they know how dark a pencil line should be. They know how firm a white chalk line should be. LeWitt considered his wall drawings permanent installations. Permanent until destroyed, that is. If a wall drawing ever has to be relocated, the piece must be entirely redrawn. This work was first drawn in 1975, again, in 1990, and executed on the second floor of MIT Sloan in 2010. To hear more about LeWitt's other work at MIT, please press 826 and press pound.