



**SOL LEWITT**

American, 1928-2007

*Wall Drawing #405*, 1983-84

India ink on plaster

City of Davenport Art Collection

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## Wall Drawing #405



**Sol LeWitt** (1928–2007) As part of an emerging group of Minimalist artists in the 1960s and 70s, LeWitt's works consist of basic colors and simplified shapes often based on mathematical equations, but unpredictable in form. He was a pioneer of the Conceptual art movement, which held that the idea itself is a work of art and focused less on the material concerns. LeWitt, along with artist Lucy Lippard, co-founded the company Printed Matter, Inc., a not-for-profit which circulates art instruction books to the public, and was instrumental in creating a support network for contemporary artists.

### A product of its time

LeWitt didn't think it was a problem to have others execute his ideas. He pointed out that architects don't construct their own buildings and composers don't perform in a symphony. LeWitt gave his assistants considerable latitude in interpreting his concepts. "Different people do wall drawings differently. I only ask that the words and ideas be respected." He added, "Like music, they can be done better or worse by the interpreter."

### Take a closer look

LeWitt liked the extreme two-dimensional aspect of wall drawings. He felt they became integrated with the wall, rather than resting on top of it. When LeWitt began making wall drawings, he used basic lines, shapes and colors. He enjoyed the challenge of exploring the unlimited potential of these elements of art.

### Did you know?

*Wall Drawing #405* was originally installed at the Davenport River Center in 1984. David Chipperfield, the architect who designed the Figge building, became aware of the work and requested that the museum seek permission to re-install the work at the Figge. LeWitt sent one of his trusted assistants to re-install *Wall Drawing #405* at the Figge. Two local artists helped LeWitt's assistant with the installation. This wall drawing was installed in July 2005, just weeks before the Figge Art Museum opened to the public. The sculpture that graces the Figge plaza is another work by Sol LeWitt.

### On your own

"Art in Plain Sight: Sol LeWitt Works": <https://www.rcreader.com/art/art-plain-sight-sol-lewitt-works>  
MASS MoCA: <http://www.massmoca.org/lewitt/>