

THE
DRAWING
CENTER

galleria nazionale d'arte moderna



Roma, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna

14 March - 9 June 2013

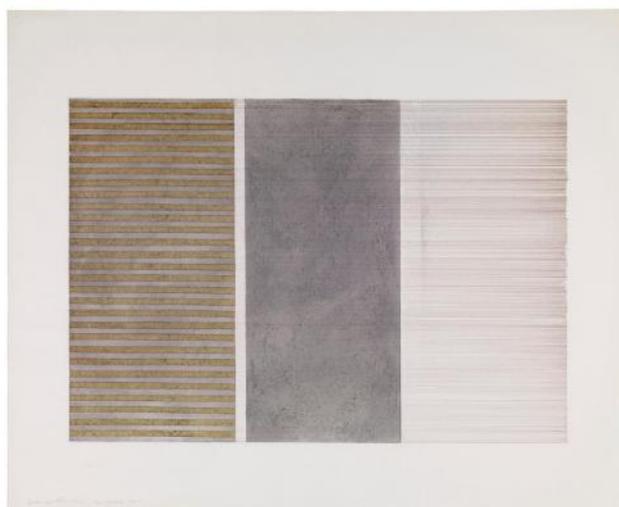
***SEAN SCULLY:
CHANGE AND HORIZONTALS***

Curated by Joanna Kleinberg and Brett Littman, in collaboration with Peter Benson Miller

With the patronage of the Embassy of the United States of America

Press Conference Thursday 14 March 12.00 p.m. – Sala del Mito

Opening Thursday 14 March 18.30 p.m.



Sean Scully, *Horizontalis #1*, 1975. Acrylic, tape, ink and graphite on paper, 55.7 x 75.9 cm. Courtesy Neo Neo Inc, New York. Photo © Sean Scully

Works on paper from two inter-related series created by **Sean Scully** in 1974 and 1975, gathered together for the first time in more than thirty years, are the focus of the exhibition ***Change and Horizontalis***. They offer the public a rare opportunity to appreciate a key moment of transition in the development of the singular aesthetic of this artist, one of the most important abstract painters working today. Known for an expressive, but calculated geometry of parallel lines organized on a broken grid, Scully's paintings merge the European tradition with a profound understanding of

Abstract Expressionism in the United States. The two series *Change* and *Horizontalts* – fourteen works in acrylic, ink, graphite, and masking-tape – will be joined by two paintings from the same period, and sixty full-page ballpoint ink and felt-tip pen sketches taken from Scully's notebook from 1974–75, which directly correspond to elements in the finished drawings and paintings.

Conceived by The Drawing Center in New York, *Sean Scully: Change and Horizontalts* is co-curated by **Joanna Kleinberg** and **Brett Littman** of The Drawing Center. The exhibition in Rome was organized by independent curator **Peter Benson Miller**.

The exhibition also includes three watercolors done by Scully while he was artist-in-residence at Villa Massimo, the German Academy in Rome, in 2005, the same year that Scully published an incisive tribute to Giorgio Morandi. The watercolors reveal the artist's personal response to aspects of Italian art and the Roman cityscape. Evoking the shape and hues of Roman bricks and palace facades, they engage Morandi's meditative study of repeated compositional elements, reducing them to simple, luminous and expressive geometric units.

After the success of the retrospective dedicated to the artist on view at MACRO Future in 2008, *Change and Horizontalts* offers an unprecedented in-depth view of a series of works that were fundamental for the metamorphosis of Scully's post-minimalist abstraction. Born in Dublin, Scully has lived and worked in New York for over thirty years. Scully's move from London to New York City in 1975 marked a stylistic breakthrough to a period during which he became more engaged with the tones and textures of the metropolis that surrounded him. While he remained attentive to the European tradition, Scully was quick to absorb elements characteristic of artistic practice in New York as well as features of its urban landscape.

After a European tour that included stops in London, Middlesbrough, and Munich, *Change and Horizontalts* will travel in September to The Drawing Center in New York. (www.drawingcenter.org). Founded in 1977, The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the United States to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established to provide opportunities for emerging and under-recognized artists; to demonstrate the significance and diversity of drawings throughout history; and to stimulate public dialogue on issues of art and culture.

Sean Scully: Change and Horizontalts will be open to the public at the GNAM in Rome from 14 March to 9 June. The catalogue accompanying the exhibition is published by Drago (www.dragolab.com) and it includes essays by Joanna Kleinberg, Brett Littman and Peter Benson Miller, with contributions by Maria Vittoria Marini Clarelli and Maria Giuseppina Di Monte, as well as an unpublished short story by acclaimed Irish novelist Colm Tóibín.

Thursday 14 March at 17.00 The British School at Rome will host a conversation between artist Sean Scully and curators Peter Benson Miller and Brett Littman. The event, which is free and open to the public, will be followed by the opening of the exhibition *Sean Scully: Change and Horizontalts* next door at the GNAM. The British School at Rome, via Antonio Gramsci, 61. 00197 Rome tel. 06 326 4939 (www.bsr.ac.uk/it)

INFORMATION

Exhibition	<i>Sean Scully: Change and Horizontals</i>
Curator GNAM	Maria Giuseppina Di Monte
Venue	Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna e contemporanea Viale delle Belle Arti 131, Roma Entrance for the disabled: via Gramsci 73
Opening hours	Open to the public from 15 March 2013 Tuesday – Sunday from 10.30 to 19.30 (the ticket office closes at 18.45) Closed Monday
Entrance	Ticket price: euro 12.00
Museum and Exhibition	Reduced price: euro 9,50 (citizens of the European Union ages 18 to 25; teachers from state schools in the European Union) Special reduction, exhibitions only: euro 7.00 (18 and under and seniors over 65) Free entrance to Museum: 18 and under and seniors over 65
Information	Tel. +39 06 32298221 www.gnam.beniculturali.it Facebook
Catalogue	DRAGO www.dragolab.com
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