

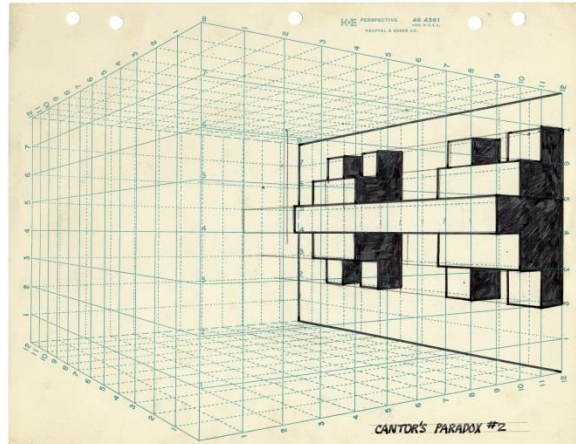
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Mel Bochner: Drawings 1966-1968
April 3 – May 22, 2015



Serial Sculpture E, 1966
84 wooden blocks painted black
12¼ x 12¼ x 7 inches



Cantor's Paradox #2, 1966
Ink and pencil on graph paper
8½ x 11 inches

NEW YORK, NY – *Mel Bochner: Drawings 1966-1968* will be on view at Craig F. Starr Gallery from April 3rd through May 22nd, 2015. The exhibition comprises over fifty works – primarily drawings, with related photographs, a wall drawing, and a sculpture.

The works, many on view for the first time, are largely motivated by information systems that demonstrate mathematical, linguistic, perceptual, and geometrical principles while raising them to the level of art. The exhibition is the first to present as many examples from this singular body of work and thus illustrates the unifying conceptual, narrative thread that runs through this period of Bochner's artistic production.

The works on view engage seriality, language, counting, measurement, shape, and spatial orientation in varied compositional structures and translates them into different systems. On the heels of Minimalism, Bochner's work constitutes an extended interrogation of structure and form on a more explicitly conceptual level. For example, *Cantor's Paradox #2* (1966) is the schematic representation on gridded perspective paper of a proposed sculptural object derived from a previous, two-dimensional attempt to visualize the mathematical expression of infinity.

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Mel Bochner early drawings and related work at Craig F. Starr Gallery

Serial Sculpture E (1966) is a highlight; a construction of 84 painted two-inch by two-inch wooden blocks, it was originally one of twelve configurations documented photographically and diagrammatically in *36 Photographs and 12 Diagrams* (1966). This occasion marks the sculpture's first-ever presentation in a public exhibition.

Previously, Bochner's block configurations were seen via his photographic works, which illustrate the numerous possible permutations and set-ups – the substitution of photograph for sculptural object suggests a dematerialization characteristic of Bochner's practice. He continued to explore these ideas in works such as *Isomorph A4* and *Constants and Variables: Horizontal Striations* (both 1967), also on view.

Mel Bochner: Drawings 1966-1968 consists of loans from the artist, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Baltimore Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and several private collections from across the country. A fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by Jeffrey Weiss, Senior Curator at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, accompanies the exhibition.

Mel Bochner (born 1940, Pittsburgh) received his BFA in 1962 from the Carnegie Institute of Technology. His work can be found in prominent private collections and numerous public collections worldwide. He lives and works in New York City. This is his first exhibition at Craig F. Starr Gallery.

Craig F. Starr Gallery is located at 5 East 73rd Street between Fifth and Madison Avenues. Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday, 11:00am to 5:30pm, and by appointment. For general information please view the gallery's website at www.craigstarr.com.