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LEE UFAN

Korean artist

LEE UFAN is an artist, minimalist sculptor, writer and philosopher. He is especially best known as one of the most prominent artists of the Japanese avant-garde movement, "Mono-ha movement".

<http://www.studioleeufan.org/>

The artist

Lee Ufan is born on June 24, 1936 in Haman-gun. He studied calligraphy, poetry and painting at the College of Kyongnam and the University of Seoul. He interrupted his studies at Seoul University and pursued them in Japan. He graduated from Nihon University, Department of Philosophy, Tokyo (1961). In 1997, he was a visiting professor at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He lives between Kamakura in Japan and Paris.

Artwork

Since the late 1960s, Lee Ufan has combined monochrome painting with in situ sculpture. He is a figure of the "Dansaekhwa" (monochrome current of the post-war period in Korea). He was also the theorist and spokesperson for the avant-garde Mono-ha (Object School group) movement in the late 1960s, which "rejected Western notions of representation".

In 1991, Lee Ufan began a series of paintings - "Correspondence Series" - which consisted of one or two strokes of grey-blue brush applied on a large white surface. Relatum will then be the title of most of his sculptures. It is a philosophical term that refers to things or events that relate to each other. His sculptures are minimal: one or two round stones illuminated by light, placed on iron trays, flat. Lee Ufan's work focuses more specifically on the point and the line. He creates meditative and ultra-clean installations, worthy of the most beautiful Zen gardens as during his exhibition in the gardens of Versailles in 2014.

At the end of 2017, Lee Ufan exhibited for the first time in a French art institution - the Olivier Debré Contemporary Creation Centre in Tours - since the retrospective devoted to him by the Museum of Contemporary Art in Saint-Étienne in 2005 and the National Gallery of the Jeu de Paume in 1997. The exhibition entitled "Feeling" featured sculptures combining stone found in nature and industrial metal, and paintings collecting on the canvas the trace of a unique gesture, a kind of path between shadow and light.

A sculpture by Lee Ufan "Relatum - Stage" (2018) was on display in Kensington Gardens, London, until 25 July 2018. The artist also presented at Art Basel 2018 in Miami, a sculpture Relatum (field) (1969): the earth served as a base, and steel wires rose to a height of four feet. In September 2018, Lee Ufan presented 14 new paintings from its Dialogue Series (with color) at the Pace Gallery New York, made from 2016 to 2018.

A retrospective, entitled 'Living Time', was dedicated to Lee Ufan at the Pompidou-Metz Museum,

France, from February 27 to September 30, 2019. The artist designed the structure of his exhibition that include some forty significant works, presented in fifteen rooms, of changing shapes and dimensions.