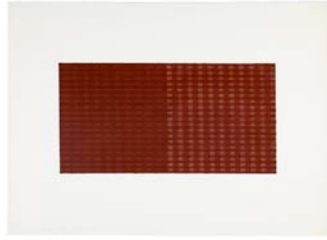


Sean Scully  
*Change and Horizontals*

Timothy Taylor Gallery: January 13–February 11, 2012



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Sean Scully, *Change #7*,  
1975. Acrylic and tape on  
paper, 22 1/2 x 30 2/3  
inches. Courtesy Neo Neo  
Inc, New York. Photo ©  
Sean Scully.

December 12, 2011 – New York: The Drawing Center presents *Sean Scully: Change and Horizontals*, which begins its transcontinental tour at Timothy Taylor Gallery, London, from January 13–February 11, 2012, then travels to Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, UK, from March 2–July 8, 2012, Galleria nazionale d’arte moderna e contemporanea, Rome, from March 14–June 9, 2013, and The Drawing Center, New York, from September 26–November 10, 2013. This intensely focused survey is comprised of acrylic, ink, graphite, and masking-tape drawings from 1974–75—presented together for the first time in over 30 years—as well as two large-scale paintings from the same period and one of the artist’s personal notebooks. Culled from two distinct series, the *Change* and *Horizontals* drawings—executed in London and New York respectively—highlight the importance of color and form within Scully’s abstractions. Color is always rooted in a particular place, and form manifests the self. Impressions of each city are fundamental to these drawings, as location plays a key role in the artist’s life and oeuvre; as the artist stated in 2006, “People tend to think of abstraction as abstract. But nothing is abstract: it’s a self-portrait. A portrait of one’s condition.” 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. *Sean Scully: Change and Horizontals* is co-curated by Joanna Kleinberg and Brett Littman of The Drawing Center. A selection of watercolors made by Scully in 2005 while an artist-in-residence at Villa Massimo in Rome will be chosen by Peter Miller, independent curator, and included in the exhibition at Galleria nazionale d’arte moderna e contemporanea, Rome.

Part drawing, part painting, the 14 geo-abstract drawings on view ply a narrow course between the two mediums; their intimate scale and handmade quality lend an immediacy characteristic of the drawn medium, while the variations in brushstroke and allover surface texture reflect more painterly concerns. While in London in 1974, Scully completed his *Change* drawings,

experimenting with somber acrylics against hard-edged tape grids that are redolent of the city's smoldering gray haze and industrial horizons. In 1975, he created his *Horizontals* series while residing in New York City. Concrete forms give way to more idiosyncratic delineations in both the drawings and paintings alike, as the images suggest architectural constructions and interplays of filtered light cast between towering skyscrapers. The imperfect movement of the artist's hand, a necessary extension of his change in habitat, is further revealed in the ballpoint ink and felt-tip pen sketches taken from his notebook from 1974–75, also on view. The 60 full-page studies directly correspond to elements in the finished drawings and demonstrate a certain thinking-out-loud creativity. Viewed together, the works chart evolutionary shifts in composition and gesture, which provide unique insight into this artist's exceptionally singular aesthetic.

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Among numerous solo exhibitions worldwide, Sean Scully has had several major retrospectives, including: Whitechapel Gallery, London, in 1989, which traveled to Palacio Velazquez, Madrid, Spain and Stadtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich, Germany; *Sean Scully: Twenty Years, 1976–1995* at Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., which traveled to High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia, La Caixa des Pensiones, Barcelona, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland, and Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Germany; *Wall of Light* at The Phillips Collection, Washington D.C., in 2005, which traveled to Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Texas, Cincinnati Art Museum, Ohio, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and *Sean Scully. A Retrospective*, which traveled to Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona, Spain, in 2007, Musée d'art moderne, St. Etienne, France, and MACRO al Mattatoio, Rome, Italy. His most recent retrospective opened at the MKM Museum Küppersmühle für Moderne Kunst, Duisburg, Germany, in February 2009 and traveled to the Ulster Museum in Belfast. *Sean Scully: Retrospective* will travel to Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland and Lentos Kunstmuseum, Linz, Austria in 2012. Scully was born in 1945 in Dublin and currently lives and works in New York, Barcelona, and Mooseurach, Germany.

#### **PUBLICATION**

The *Drawing Papers* publication will be 96 pages with 30 color plates, and will feature an essay on Scully's drawings from 1974–75 by co-curators Joanna Kleinberg and Brett Littman, as well as a specially commissioned short story by acclaimed Irish novelist Colm Tóibín. The publication will be available in January 2012 for \$15.00.

#### **EXHIBITION SCHEDULE**

Timothy Taylor Gallery: January 12–February 11, 2012

Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (MIMA): March 2–July 8, 2012

Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna e contemporanea: March 14 - June 9, 2013

The Drawing Center: September 26–November 10, 2013

#### **ABOUT THE DRAWING CENTER**

The Drawing Center is the only not-for-profit fine arts institution in the country to focus solely on the exhibition of drawings, both historical and contemporary. It was established in 1977 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 Horizontals*

Timothy Taylor Gallery  
January 13–February 11, 2012

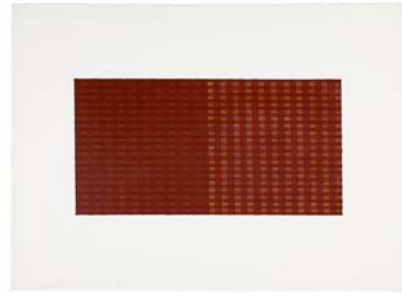
### *Images Available for Reproduction*

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SS1: Sean Scully, *Change #5*, 1975.  
Acrylic and tape on paper, 23 1/3 x 30 1/3  
inches. Courtesy Neo Neo Inc, New York.  
Photo © Sean Scully.



SS2: Sean Scully, *Change #7*, 1975. Acrylic  
and tape on paper, 22 1/2 x 30 2/3 inches.  
Courtesy Neo Neo Inc, New York. Photo ©  
Sean Scully.



SS4: Sean Scully, *Change #22*, 1975. Acrylic  
and tape on paper, 21 1/2 x 30 1/2 inches.  
Courtesy Neo Neo Inc, New York. Photo ©  
Sean Scully.



SS15: Sean Scully, *Untitled*, 1975. Acrylic and  
tape on paper, 22 11/16 x 30 11/16 inches.  
Courtesy Neo Neo Inc, New York. Photo © Sean  
Scully.



SS11: Sean Scully, *Horizontals #5*, 1975. Acrylic,  
tape, ink and graphite on paper, 22 x 29 15/16  
inches. Courtesy Neo Neo Inc, New York. Photo  
© Sean Scully.



SS8: Sean Scully, *Horizontals #1*, 1975.  
Acrylic, tape, ink and graphite on paper, 21  
3/4 x 29 3/4 inches. Courtesy Neo Neo Inc,  
New York. Photo © Sean Scully