

When the Bees Fan Out
by Georg Imdahl



ONE More dedicated to Sol LeWitt

In times of crises this show presented by Thomas Rehbein is a courageous move. He presents conceptual art at its first hour to demonstrate connections to that time's extremely reduced Minimal Art. What is shown here is shown very discretely. Although Rehbein can offer well-known artists like Carl Andre or Robert Ryman, here at least the other dozen artists are hardly known.

The artist Dove Bradshaw is the curator, a New York sculptor and painter, who worked with Merce Cunningham and John Cage in the 80s and 90s as Co-Artistic Advisor along with William Anastasi as set and costume designers and who later chose other artists as well. Her companion, William Anastasi has been with the Rehbein Gallery for some time. The work Bradshaw has put together in this exhibition is not of an equal standard, but there are praise-worthy pieces and starting points which we here in Europe have only been aware of on the periphery.

One of the noteworthy works is the drawing of Anastasi (born in 1933). In the 60's he had already opened new doors with his unorthodox methods used in his paintings and sculptures – for instance when he removed 4" of a wall's surface vertically, pouring paint down a wall or stacking raw bricks in a square, an elementary discovery in itself. With his many-layered glass sculpture, 1967, he marks himself as an early innovator of this new type of sculpture. No less interesting are his drawings: perched atop a ladder he drops his suspended pencil onto the paper. The result is swarms of dots which pulse on the page.

I would have liked to have seen more of Cordy Ryman (son of Robert Ryman and Merrill Wagner, his wife, also in the exhibition): In the tradition of Richard Tuttle or Joseph Egan he painted fragile objects and then placed them in a corner.

Here is the weakness of this show: we did not need 14 participants, we would have preferred fewer artists with more works of each so that we could get to know them more profoundly.