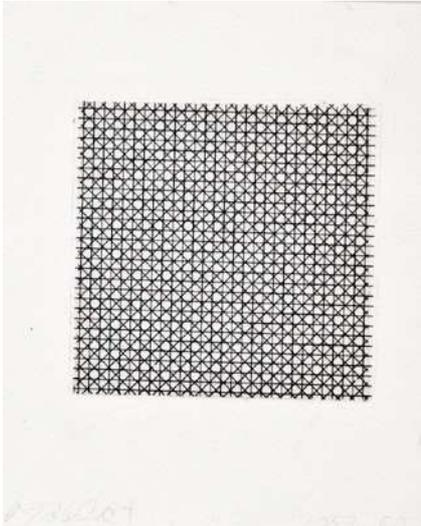


François Morellet dans ses petits papiers

19 march – 29 april 2011

Private viewing Saturday March 19th from 6pm to 9pm.



François Morellet's work has acquired an undisputed reputation; his drawings however remain relatively unknown. For this new exhibition, the gallery is revealing this aspect of his work with a selection of the artist's drawings, dating from the fifties up until today.

Drawings, in François Morellet's work, play a large role; they are at the heart of the creative process. Essential not only for the construction of an idea but also its design, each piece of paper becomes, with the help of artistic gesture, the place where a thought forms and deforms itself. These are not just preparatory drawings but rather art works in their own right.

In the series of drawings using tracing paper the support is folded thus diverting what seems to be the logical direction of a curve or a line. As a result, a three-dimensional ever transforming shape, in constant

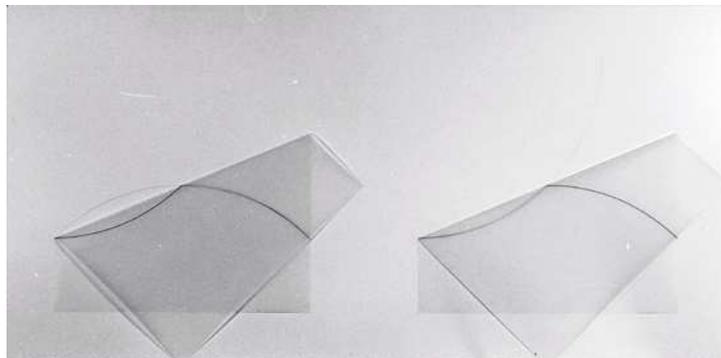
movement, springs from the drawing itself.

Etude, trames superposées, 1959

Continuing this idea, the artist also often uses squared paper similar to that of an architect. The drawing in turn begins to question the support upon which it sits, as a complex geometric system appears through the use of a grid. This can be seen for example in "*Etude, trames superposées*" (*Study, layered grids*) dating from 1959. A grid can also be constructed through the use of hyphens, seen in "*Tirets 1cm dont l'espace augmente à chaque rangée de 1 cm*" (*1 cm Hyphens between which the space increases by 1cm for each row*) (1975).

François Morellet also experiments with different techniques in his drawings ; the collage entitled "*Cercle fragmenté*" (*Fragmented circle*), produced in 1977, is a prime example of the varying technique in François Morellet's work. The artist's 'language' comes in large from pure and simple forms but is also formed through the use of fragmentation, demonstrated also in the series entitled "*Défigurations*".

Among his latest drawings, a selection of his preparatory studies for the Louvre's Lefuel Staircase will be exhibited.



Pliages sur calque, 1978

The Centre Georges Pompidou holds its first large scale exhibition of François Morellet from March the 2nd to July the 4th of 2011.