GLADSTONE

Lawrence Weiner's Debut Exhibition with Gladstone Opens This September in New York

Presentation features over 20 language-based, sculptural works spanning five decades of Weiner's practice

"My work, my life, has been to make a specific object that doesn't have a specific form, so it can move from one culture to the other without being exotic." —Lawrence Weiner

This September, Gladstone premieres its first exhibition of Lawrence Weiner's (1942-2021) language-based, sculptural work, AS OFTEN AS NOT. The presentation addresses timeless issues of change: cataclysmic events, entropy, and borders that impede our lives today, which are read via Weiner's own language and graphic style. Specially designed for Gladstone's 21st Street location, the exhibition includes an installation on the building's façade and features works from Weiner's 1969 unpublished manuscript, Terminal Boundaries.

Weiner considered his language-based works as sculptures and is celebrated for his approach to artmaking, treating language as a three-dimensional object, whose materiality and dimensionality extend to the many ways language can be applied to facets of culture and take on different meanings in different contexts and through the lens of different viewers. AS OFTEN AS NOT highlights Weiner's treatment of language as the material component of his sculptural practice.

Throughout his career, Weiner eschewed formulas and remained adamant about not dictating how audiences were to interpret his work, instead encouraging viewers to engage without any recipe or orders for doing so. Reflecting the artist's interest in both the specific and the general, Weiner's work is imbued with "specific ambiguity," allowing it to transcend temporality and geographical context, such that it could apply to any culture into which it could be placed.

In the development of AS OFTEN AS NOT, the Lawrence Weiner Studio considered the precedents for the featured works as well as the context of their presentation at Gladstone's 21st Street location. Conceived through a process that was at once simple and nuanced in order to preserve the integrity of the works on view, the presentation speaks to the site-specific nature of the installation. It also features a typeface designed by Weiner, applied across all of the works in the exhibition, to underscore Weiner's intention that each viewer determine the meaning of the work for themselves.

"Each new presentation [of Lawrence's work] begins with a research process to determine how the work had been formally executed by Lawrence himself," states Alice Zimmerman Weiner. "A synthesis of exhibition histories accumulated over the years in large part determined this installation within today's terms; site and circumstances of placement also play a key role. For Gladstone, the [Lawrence Weiner] Studio decided to apply the typeface Lawrence designed to every work in this exhibition, reasoning that this presentation would make Lawrence's intent clear: the work's veritable meaning is the viewer's decision. Lawrence's art can speak generally to the politics of today, but his ultimate desire was to speak to each viewer via his compositions in language."

Exhibition Details:

September 12 - October 25, 2025 Reception: September 12, 6-8pm 530 West 21st Street New York, NY 10011

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Public Programming:

On September 14th, from 2–6pm, e-flux will screen films by Lawrence Weiner at the e-flux Screening Room at 172 Classon Ave, Brooklyn, NY. The screenings will be divided into three segments, approximately 90 minutes each. A selection of Weiner's sound performance works will be played during breaks between the segments.

About Gladstone Gallery

Gladstone Gallery is known for its commitment to artists whose prescient approaches and experimental practices have defined the contours of contemporary art. The gallery has long been an active partner in the cultivation of iconoclastic careers, fostering a roster of artists recognized for their ground-breaking contributions. Headquartered in New York and including outposts in both Brussels and Seoul, Gladstone's impact extends globally, enabling both the presentation of new bodies of work, and an amplification of the international reach of its artists. Alongside its work with contemporary artists, the gallery is steward to the legacies of pivotal historical artists and serves as an advocate for the enduring power of art. Gladstone is led by a team of partners who spearhead its long-term vision and program, building on the values of its founder Barbara Gladstone.

Press Contact

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