

Donald Judd

American artist. **1928** Born in Excelsior Springs, Missouri attends Westwood High school in New Jersey (**1943 – 1946**) then does his military service serving as an engineer in Korea, building walls and pre-fabricated houses. **1948 – 1953** Enrols at the Art Students League of New York. His early works are conventional portraits and landscapes. During this period he studies philosophy and the history of art at Columbia University, New York and graduates *cum laude* as Bachelor of Science. **1952** First participation in an exhibition: at Montclair Art Museum, New Jersey. Working on charcoal drawings and lithographs of stairwell motifs. **1955** Explores bridge motifs in his oil paintings. **1956** Turns his attention in his paintings to the garden as a theme. His abstractions include large solid areas of a single colour populated by simplified shapes and forms. **1957** First solo exhibition in the Panoramas Gallery, New York. Judd talks of « half-baked abstractions ». The paintings show curved shapes with a muted palette. **1957 – 1963** Continues study of art history at Columbia University, New York, with Meyer Schapiro and Rudolf Wittkower. **1957 – 1961** Part-time teacher at the Allen-Stevenson Private Elementary School, New York. **1959 – 1965** Art critic for *Art News*, *Arts Magazine* and *Art International*. **1961** Last easel painting with earthy colour grounds and lines reminiscent of paths. **1962** Adds sand and wax to the surfaces of the oil paintings, to achieve a rough surface. Cuts into the canvas of some paintings in order to insert found objects. First painted wall reliefs and three-dimensional works. **1963** Participates in two group exhibitions and a solo exhibition at the Green Gallery in New York; shows three-dimensional, light cadmium red wooden objects, displayed on the wall and directly on the floor. **1964** Writes his renowned essay « Specific objects », which is published at the end of 1965 in *Arts Yearbook 8*. In it Judd rejects traditional European painting and sculpture in favour of the « three dimensions ». First works in wood and plexiglas. **1965** Participates in the VII Sao Paulo Biennial at the invitation of Barnett Newman, along with Larry Poons, Frank Stella, Robert Irwin and others. Creates his first horizontal « progressions » and vertical « stacks ». Awarded a travel grant to visit Sweden by the Swedish Institute, Stockholm. Participates in Inner-Outer Spaces, Moderna Museet, Stockholm. **1966** Solo exhibition in the Leo Castelli Gallery, New York. Participates in Primary Structures: Younger British and American Sculptors, The Jewish Museum, New York. **1967** Leads seminar on sculpture at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. **1968** Purchases 101 Spring Street in New York, a five-story iron-frame structure from 1870. The house is to be retained as an undecorated loft building and used as a place for living, working and permanent exhibitions of art by Judd and others. Participates in *Documenta 4*, Kassel, and in the exhibition *Minimal Art*, Gemeentemuseum, The Hague. **1969** Solo exhibitions at the Gallery Sonnabend, Paris, and at the Gallery Zwirner, Cologne. 1970 Exhibition in Germany at the Museum Folkwang, Essen. **1971** Travels to Marfa, Texas, and decides on the area as the location for his project of Art Foundation. **1977** Develops art projects for the Dia Art Foundation, New York. **1986** After a dispute with the Dia Foundation the site and the art works are transferred to the Chinati Foundation in Texas which soon include works by other important artists. **1994** Donald Judd dies of cancer in New York.

Thomas Kellein