

LISSON GALLERY

Press Release

Sean Scully *Wall Big And Small*

55 Main Street
East Hampton, NY
July 1 – 18, 2021

For the latest exhibition in East Hampton, Lisson Gallery is pleased to present *Wall Big And Small*, featuring the first in a new series of *Bonsai* paintings by Sean Scully. Presented in dialogue with a recent *Wall of Light* painting, the artist's fourth solo exhibition with the gallery, and his second in East Hampton, reframes one of Scully's most important bodies of work.

Sean Scully's *Bonsai 1*, 2021, is an introduction to a new series by the artist that presents his prominent compositions of horizontal and vertical bands, tessellating blocks and shifting colors on a miniature scale. The work presented in East Hampton condenses the size of a quintessential *Wall of Light* painting, shrinking the stacks of rectangles while maintaining the hints of light through the fissures for which the series is known. The new work is shown alongside *Wall Red Yellow*, 2021, a recent, full-scale *Wall of Light* painting, shown for the first time, that continues the series first started by Sean Scully over three decades ago.

The series began after the artist made the first of several influential trips to Mexico in 1983, where he used watercolor for the first time to portray the patterns of light and shadows he experienced on the stacked stones of local walls and ruins. The ongoing group of works features piled rectangles of color, stacked in alternating horizontal and vertical formats with traces of space where light peaks through the aggregation.

A major retrospective of Sean Scully's work from the 1970s to the present is currently on view at [The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth](#) through October 10, 2021. Following the Fort Worth presentation the exhibition will travel to the Philadelphia Museum of Art in Spring 2022.

The exhibition at East Hampton follows solo exhibitions at the gallery by [Masaomi Yasunaga](#), [Roy Colmer](#), [Leon Polk Smith](#), [Ceal Floyer](#), and [Laure Prouvost](#). Lisson Gallery's East Hampton space will continue its focused format featuring both influential, historical artworks and debuting new bodies of work in an experimental, intimate setting. Following the Sean Scully exhibition the gallery will offer a presentation by [Ryan Gander](#). The gallery is open to the public each Thursday through Saturday, from 11am to 6pm, Sundays from 12 – 5pm and Wednesdays by appointment.

About Sean Scully

Sean Scully was born in Dublin in 1945 and raised in South London. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Newcastle University in 1972. With a career that spans more than five decades, he has received numerous accolades and has been the subject of multiple touring exhibitions. In 2014, he became the first Western artist to have a career-length retrospective in China. Scully was named a member of the Royal Academy of Arts in London in 2013, and has twice been shortlisted for the Turner Prize. He has received honorary degrees from institutions such as the Massachusetts College of Art, Boston; the National University of Ireland, Dublin; Universitas Miguel Hernandez, Valencia; Burren College of Art, National University of Ireland; Newcastle University, UK, among others. A series of essays and conversations between Scully and the esteemed art critic Arthur Danto was published by Hatje Cantz in 2014, and a collection of Scully's own writing, selected speeches and interviews, *Inner*, was released in 2016.

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Sean Scully's work is in the permanent collections of numerous important institutions including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; The National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Art Gallery of Ontario, Canada; Tate Modern, London; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; De Pont Museum of Contemporary Art, Tilburg; Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid; Albertina, Vienna; and Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China, among many others. In 2015, Scully oversaw a complete renovation at the Romanesque chapel Santa Cecilia de Montserrat, near Barcelona, featuring his work in dialogue with the historic architecture and restoring the church to working condition.

About Lisson Gallery

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Today the gallery supports and promotes the work of more than 60 international artists across two spaces in London, two in New York, one in Shanghai, as well as temporary spaces opened in 2020 in East Hampton and London's Mayfair district. Established in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, Lisson Gallery pioneered the early careers of important Minimal and Conceptual artists, such as Art & Language, Carl Andre, Daniel Buren, Donald Judd, John Latham, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long and Robert Ryman among many others. It still works with many of these artists as well as others of that generation from Carmen Herrera to the renowned estates of Leon Polk Smith, Ted Stamm and Roy Colmer.

In its second decade the gallery introduced significant British sculptors to the public for the first time, including Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Anish Kapoor, Shirazeh Houshiary and Julian Opie. Since 2000, the gallery has gone on to represent many more leading international artists such as Marina Abramović, Ai Weiwei, John Akomfrah, Susan Hiller, Tatsuo Miyajima and Sean Scully. It is also responsible for raising the international profile of a younger generation of artists led by Cory Arcangel, Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg, Ryan Gander, Haroon Mirza, Laure Prouvost, Pedro Reyes and Wael Shawky.

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