

SEAN SCULLY, *Passenger Red Red*, 1998

MACRO FUTURE
presents
SEAN SCULLY

In collaboration with the Fundacio Joan Miró in Barcelona and the Musée d'Art Moderne in Saint-Etienne Métropole, the exhibition runs from 9 May to 31 August 2008

Opening: thursday 8 May from 6.30 p.m.

MACRO FUTURE presents one of the great names in international painting, the Irish-born artist Sean Scully (1945), who lives and works in the United States and Europe. Scully is coming to Italy for the second time with an important solo project. The first, which was also curated by Danilo Eccher, was held at GAM, Bologna, in 1996.

If painting still has a reason to exist – writes Eccher – in a world of contemporary art in which languages and forms of expression multiply out of control, it is thanks to artists like Sean Scully.

Against the magnificent backdrop of MACRO FUTURE, in the former Mattatoio area, more than 30 large-format works, including oil paintings and drawings, will be going on show. They span about thirty years, from 1974 to the present day, illustrating Scully's fundamental research.

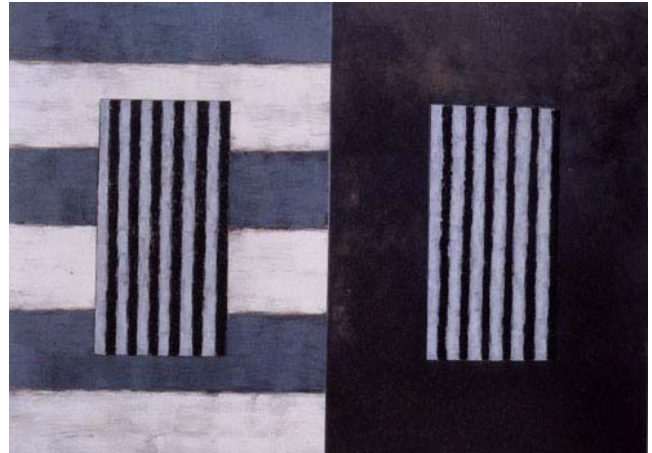
His career has been marked by the shift from a more geometrical and linear image to one that is less austere, in which colour, quite apart from its tones, becomes more robust and the stroke more impulsive, with sweeps of the brush in dense layers.

The pastel on paper drawings range from 1992 the present day, though the largest and most representative part of the solo exhibition is devoted to works on canvas. Dating from his debut years in the early 1970s, we see large oil paintings which reveal the influence of Mark Rothko, with large, amorphous expanses of colour representing the spiritual side and the impact of abstractionism, and of Giorgio Morandi, from whom he draws inspiration by creating extraordinary variations and chromatic veilings within the same range of colours. The exhibition moves from the works of the early 1970s, in which minimalism and geometry are distinctive elements, to the late 1980s (*Cathedral*, 1989) and 1990s (*Gabriel*, 1993), through to an investigation of the thickness and body of colour, ending up with high-impact works such as *Sea Wall* of 2002 and *Wall of Light Dusk* of 2004.

The poetic vision of Sean Scully is complex, combining and blurring a number of levels of interpretation, ranging from intellectual rarefaction to the greatest depths of the most intimate spirituality, fully aware that it is playing a leading role in the great world of abstractionism. D.E.



SEAN SCULLY, *Cathedral*, 1989



SEAN SCULLY, *As Was*, 1998

Sean Scully was born in Dublin in 1945, and moved with his family to London at a very young age. In 1983 he became an American citizen. In 1977 he was given his first solo exhibition at the Rowan Gallery in London. He has exhibited in the most important museums and contemporary art foundations in the world, including the Museum of Art-Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1985 (his first solo exhibition in the United States), the Whitechapel Art Gallery in London, Palacio Velázquez in Madrid and the Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus in Munich. In 1992 he made a film about Matisse for the BBC.

The Sean Scully exhibition is being staged in cooperation with the Fundacio Joan Miró in Barcelona and the Musée d'Art Moderne in Saint-Etienne Métropole, promoting the important international art relationships that MACRO FUTURE has embarked upon as the experimental headquarters of MACRO. These have included the great *Into Me/Out of Me* group display in cooperation with KW, Berlin, and with PS1 in New York, and *Green Paradise...*, the first solo exhibition in an Italian museum by the Russian artists AES+F, with the participation of the Multimedia Art Center in Moscow.

Catalogue Thames & Hudson, with essays by: Maria Iluïsa Borràs, Danilo Eccher, Lorand Hegyi, Donald Kuspit.

SEAN SCULLY

Curated by Danilo Eccher

MACRO FUTURE. Piazza Orazio Giustiniani 4. Rome

9 May – 31 August 2008

MACRO FUTURE

opening times: Tuesday to Sunday: 4 p.m. – midnight

closed: Mondays

admission free

info: t. 06 671070400 www.macro.roma.museum

how to get here: from Termini, Metro B to Piramide, line 719 to Galvani/Zabaglia, then 150 metres on foot

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public services: BookShop

for further information and photographs



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