Week 8, Lecture 14: Frank Stella and Minimal Art

key decade: early 1960s

terms: Minimal Art, Minimalism

I. Frank Stella, the Corporate Icon, and the birth of Minimalism

A) Stella, “what you see is what you see...,” 1963
B) Carl Andre, “the metals of commerce...” ‘60s
C) Tony Smith and the New Jersey Turnpike, 1966 (remembering 1950s)
D) “Minimal Art,” name coined by philosopher Richard Wollheim, 1965

II. Minimal Art and Industrial Aesthetics

A. Donald Judd, “one thing after another...,” 1964
B. Robert Morris, Some Notes on Dance 1965, Notes on Sculpture 1968
C. Dan Flavin “the diagonal of personal ecstasy,” 1963

III. Minimalism’s Instabilities

A. Robert Morris (again), Sol LeWitt: towards the concept
B. Walter De Maria, Robert Smithson, Richard Serra: towards the site
C. Site-specificity:
   1) Richard Serra’s Tilted Arc (1981) vs.
   2) Maya Lin’s Vietnam Memorial (1982)

SELECTED IMAGES

Stella, Getty Tomb, 1959
Stella, Die Fahne Hoch, 1958-59 (Black paintings)
Stella, Jill 1959
Stella, Luis Miguel Dominguín 1960 (Aluminum series - shaped)
Stella, Sidney Guberman, 1963 (Purple series - shaped, open center)
Andre, Cedar Piece 1964
Andre, 144 pieces of Lead and 144 pieces of Magnesium, 1969
Smith, Die, 1962
Judd, Untitled, galvanized steel, 1965 (Judd is always untiiled)
Morris, Untitled (Ring with Light), fiberglass and light fixtures, 1965
Flavin, Monument to Tatlin, 1964, fluorescent lights
Morris, Litaniés 1963, lead, and subsequent certificate on paper
LeWitt, Straight Lines in Four Directions, pencil on wall, site and dimensions variable, 1969
De Maria, Mile Long Drawing and Desert Cross, removal of surface soil, Nevada desert, 1968
Smithson, Wandering Earth Mounds & Gravel Paths (plan for airport site; unbuilt), 1967
Serra, Four Pole Prop, 1969, lead
Serra, Stacked Steel Slabs (Skullcracker Series), at Kaiser Steel Corporation, 1969
Serra, Untitled (Splashing Lead), 1968, related: Casting 1969; molten lead cast into edge or corner
Serra, Tilted Arc, 1981, Cor-ten steel
Lin, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 1982, black granite, pathway, earth