

SAM LEWITT

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BORN IN 1981 IN LOS ANGELES; LIVES AND WORKS IN NEW YORK.

Sam Lewitt's practice often examines communications systems and technologies, both obsolete and cutting edge, that are central to contemporary life. For the 2012 Biennial, his subject is ferrofluid, a mixture of magnetic particles suspended in liquid that is used in a wide variety of technological applications, including computer hard drives, audio speakers, educational tools, and military aircraft. In the presence of a magnet, ferrofluid coagulates to resemble a solid mass, its contours conforming to the magnetic field yet retaining the plasticity of a liquid.

Lewitt has described his work in part as an effort to "put constellations of graphic and plastic material into motion around subjects that resist representation." With *Fluid Employment*, he has formulated an elegant, internally coherent system for displaying a material that refuses confinement to a single fixed form. The magnets attract and hold the particles in place, creating the illusion of solidity, while the fans circulating air over the work hasten the material's evaporation and put its liquidity on display. Every other Sunday, the artist pours new fluid over what remains, the repeated pouring and evaporation allowing layers of "solid" and "liquid" to separate and gradually accumulate sediment. Lewitt highlights the "neitherness" of the medium as it constantly straddles the definitions of solid and liquid; in demonstrating its properties, he subverts and inverts ideas of formality and informality, adaptability, and overdetermination.

2012 ARTISTS [Back to 2012](#)

Kai Althoff
Thom Andersen
Charles Atlas
Lutz Bacher
Forrest Bess
(by Robert Gober)
Michael Clark
Cameron Crawford
Moyra Davey
Liz Deschenes
Nathaniel Dorsky
Nicole Eisenman

Kevin Jerome
Everson
Vincent Fecteau
Andrea Fraser
LaToya Ruby
Frazier
Vincent Gallo
K8 Hardy
Richard Hawkins
Werner Herzog
Jerome Hiler
Matt Hoyt

Dawn Kasper
Mike Kelley
John Kelsey
John Knight
Jutta Koether
George Kuchar
Laida Lertxundi
Kate Levant
Sam Lewitt
Joanna Malinowska
Andrew Masullo
Nick Mauss

Richard Maxwell
Sarah Michelson
Alicia Hall Moran and
Jason Moran
Laura Poitras
Matt Porterfield
Luther Price
Lucy Raven
The Red Krayola
Kelly Reichardt
Elaine Reichek
Michael Robinson

Georgia Sagri
Michael E. Smith
Tom Thayer
Wu Tsang
Oscar Tuazon
Gisèle Vienne,
Dennis Cooper,
Stephen O'Malley,
and Peter Rehberg
Frederick Wiseman

