

A black and white photograph of a man with short, dark hair, wearing a vertically striped button-down shirt. He is holding a long, thin, light-colored object, possibly a sword or a tool, with his right hand. The object is positioned diagonally across the frame. The man's eyes are closed, and he has a focused, serene expression. The background consists of dark, geometric shapes, possibly architectural elements or a studio set, creating a sense of depth and shadow. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the contours of his face and the texture of his shirt.

SETAREH

WALTER LEBLANC

## WALTER LEBLANC

Walter Leblanc (1932 – 1986) is an important Belgian figure of European post-war art. Over the years, he has built an extremely coherent oeuvre staging light without artifice or any disrupting elements. Within the international, neo-avant-garde network of the Nouvelle Tendance, ZERO, op art, kinetic art, concrete art and (neo)constructivism, Leblanc gained both national and international recognition.

Jan Hoet described Walter Leblanc as “an artist who deserves a place in the international pantheon of art”.

After graduating from The Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp, Leblanc became a founding member of the Antwerp avant-garde group G58. The exhibition ‘Anti-Peinture’ (1962), which he curated at G58-Hessenhuis, served as his manifesto. After a figurative, abstract and subsequent monochrome period, Leblanc put the paint away for good. In 1959 he began to introduce the ‘torsion’ as an important pictorial element in his work. These torsions – made from cotton threads, plastic or metal – allowed him to bring motion, light and vibration into his reliefs and sculptures.

Leblanc actively participated in ground-breaking international exhibitions such as Monochrome Malerei (1960, Leverkusen), The Responsive Eye (1965, MoMA, New York) and Serielle Formationen (1967, Frankfurt am Main). In 1964 he won the prestigious Young Belgian Art Prize and in 1970 he took part in the 35th Venice Biennale. From 1977 until his early death in 1986, Leblanc was teaching at the Instituut voor Architectuur en Stedenbouwkunde (NHIBS) in Antwerp.

His work is part of many important museum and private art collections worldwide, such as Centre Pompidou (Paris), Tate Modern (London), Museum Kunst Palast (Düsseldorf), Josef Albers Museum (Bottrop), Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), S.M.A.K. (Ghent), Mu.Zee (Ostend) and The Fine Arts Museums (Brussels).



*Installation View*  
SETAREH, Dusseldorf, Germany  
2020

WALTER LEBLANC

*Twisted strings*

1970

string on canvas

130 x 108 cm | 51 1/4 x 42 1/2 in.

WLEB/M 5





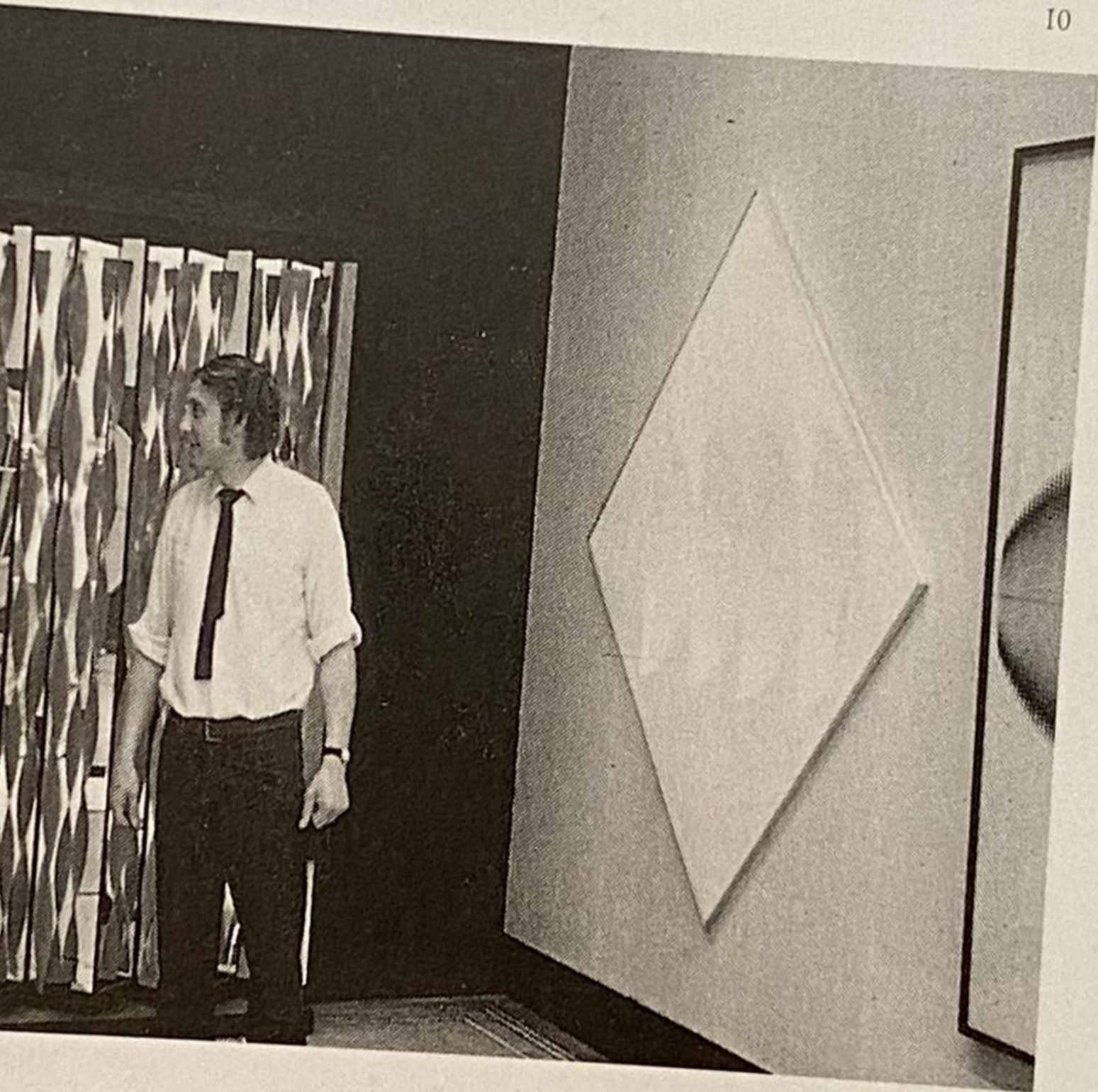
*Installation View*  
SETAREH, Dusseldorf, Germany  
2020

WALTER LEBLANC





10



11

9. L'atelier de Silly, vers 1976–1977 – 10. Calderara  
en visite à Silly, début des années 70 – 11. Biennale  
de Venise, 1970 – 12. Avec Pierre Jaulet à l'UIA vers  
1985 – 13. L'atelier de Silly en 1982 – 14. L'atelier de  
Silly, fin des années 70, début des années 80





Back of the work

f y



XXXV Biennale Internazionale d'Arte  
di Venezia 1970

556

**MDZ**  
Art Gallery  
[www.mdzgallerystudio.com](http://www.mdzgallerystudio.com)

TORSIONS 130 C.X108

BIENNALE VENEZIA

PROGRAMME TWISTED-STRINGS

REALISATION 1970



In 1959 Leblanc began to use torsion – a technique of twisting materials – in both his painting and sculpture. He was particularly interested in the ways that light would ripple across the surface of these works, creating dynamic effects. *Twisted Strings*, 80F X 477 is an early example of this approach. Cotton thread is stitched to the canvas, and covered with black latex paint.

Leblanc was the founder of the Antwerp art collective G58, a group of young artists dedicated to new techniques and materials.

# SETAREH

## WALTER LEBLANC

(\*1932 in Antwerp, BE - 1986 in Silly, BE)

### EDUCATION

- 1977/1986 Teacher at the Instituut voor Architectuur en Stedenbouwkunde, Antwerp, BE  
1955-1956 Studies at the Hoger Instituut voor Schone Kunsten, Antwerp, BE  
1949-1954 Studies at the Koninklijke Academie voor Schone Kunsten, Antwerp, BE

### AWARDS (selection)

- 1974 Prize of the Basle Chamber of Commerce for his one-man show at the Art 5'74 fair, FR  
1969 Winner of the Eugène Baie Prize for Painting, FR  
1967 Winner of the 5th Paris Biennale, FR  
1966 Winner of the Europaprijs voor Schilderkunst van de stad Oostende, BE  
1964 Winner of the Jeune Peinture Belge/Jonge Belgische Schilderkunst, BE

### SOLO SHOWS (selection)

- 2011 Or blanc, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Verviers, Verviers, BE  
Edge of Becoming, TRA, Biennale internazionale d'arte, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, IT  
2008 Walter Leblanc, Les Archives de la Ville de Bruxelles, Brussels, BE  
2001 Walter Leblanc, Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, SMAK, Gent, BE  
1989 Contribution to 'Neue Tendenzen', Ludwigshafen, Wilhem-Hack Museum, DE  
1985 Eine retrospective, Museum Carolino Augusteum, Salzburg, AT  
1974 1959-1974 Walter Leblanc, Schweizer Muster Fair, Fifth International Art Fair, Art 5, 74, Galerie Region, Basel, CH  
1968 Torsion, Palace of Fine Arts, Brussels, BE  
Leblanc Torsion, Kunstverein, Friburg i.Br., DE  
1961 Walter Leblanc, Palace of Fine Arts, Brussels, BE

### GROUP SHOWS (selection)

- 2015 The Gap: Selected Abstract Art from Belgium, cur. by Luc Tuymans, Parasol Unit, London, UK  
Zero: Let Us Explore the Stars, Stedelijk Amsterdam, NL  
Zero. Die Internationale Kunstbewegung der 1950er und 60er Jahre, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, DE  
2014 ZERO International. The Avant-Garde of the 1950s and 1960s, Setareh Gallery, Düsseldorf, DE  
A Global Exchange: Geometric Abstraction since 1950, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, AR  
Weiss – Aspekte einer Farbe in Moderne und Gegenwart, Museum im Kulturspeicher, Würzburg, DE  
Zero: Countdown To Tomorrow, 1950s–60s, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, US  
Le rouge est mis, Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain Nice, FR  
2013 Sculpture After 1945. The Curator's choice, Royal Museums of Fine Arts Belgium, Brussels, BE  
Dynamo Un Siecle De Lumiere Et De Mouvement Dans L'art 1913-2013, Galeries nationales du Grand Palais, Paris, FR

# SETAREH

- 2012 nieuwe kunst in antwerpen 1958-1962 - # 5 maar het zien zelf, MuHKA Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst Antwerpen, BE  
Intercambio global. Abstracción geométrica desde 1950, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, AR  
Belgian painting from 1920 to 1970, Mu.ZEE, Oostende, BE
- 2011 nul = 0 - dutch avant-garde in an international context, 1961-1966, Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, NL  
TRA. The edge of becoming, Palazzo Fortuny, Venice, IT
- 2010 The Good, The Bad & the Ugly, Cultuurcentrum Mechelen, BE  
ganz konkret Folge 1, Haus Konstruktiv, Zurich, CH
- 2009 Something else!!!!, Museo d'Arte di Nuoro, IT
- 2007 Die Neuen Tendenzen. Eine europäische Kuenstlerbewegung 1961-1973, Leopold Hoesch Museum, Düren, DE  
Ausgerechnet... Mathematik und Konkrete Kunst, Museum im Kulturspeicher, Würzburg, DE
- 2006 LIGHTS ON, Artiscope, Brussels, BE  
Zéro, Musée d'Art moderne de Saint-Etienne, FR  
Die Neuen Tendenzen, Museum für Konkrete Kunst, Ingolstadt, DE  
ZERO - Internationale Künstler-Avantgarde der 50er/60er Jahre, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf, DE
- 2004 Who ZERO EuropVision 1958 bis heute, Sammlung Lenz Schoenberg, Museum für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Zagreb, HR
- 2003 Bastiaans/Leblanc, Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo, NL  
History of a Collection (1979 - 2003), Atelier 340 Muzeum, Brussels, BE  
Gelijk het leven is, Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Ghent, BE  
Un jardin secret - Collection Monique Dorsel et Emile Lanc, Centre de la Gravure et de l'Image im primée, La Louvière, FR
- 1997 Zero und Paris 1960/1997, 20 Jahre Galerie Moderne, Aufbau einer Sammlung konkreter Art, Quadrat Bottrop, Josef Albers Museum, Bottrop, DE
- 1986 Rapports Plan-Espace, Royal Museums of Fine Arts, Brussels, BE
- 1985 Eine EuropBewegung Bilder und Objekte aus der Sammlung Lenz Schoenberg, Museum Carolino Augusteum, Salzburg, AT
- 1979 The sixties - Art in Belgium, Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Ghent, BE
- 1970 35. Venice Biennial, IT

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS (selection)

Josef Albers Museum Quadrat, Bottrop, DE  
Kaiser Wilhelm Museum, Krefeld, DE  
Kunsthalle Mannheim, DE  
Kunstmuseum Bochum - Kunstsammlung, Bochum, DE  
Kunstsammlungen der Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Campusmuseum, Sammlung Moderne, Bochum, DE  
Leopold-Hoesch-Museum (Die Hubertus Schoeller Stiftung), Düren, DE  
Museum für Konkrete Kunst, Ingolstadt, DE  
Museum gegenstandsfreier Kunst, Otterndorf, DE  
Museum im Kulturspeicher, Die Sammlung Peter C. Ruppert, Würzburg, DE  
Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf, DE  
Pfalzgalerie, Kaiserslautern, DE  
Sammlung Etzold, Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach, DE  
Wilhelm-Hack-Museum, Ludwigshafen Am Rhein, DE  
Zero Foundation, Düsseldorf, DE  
J.P. Morgan Chase Art Collection, New York, US

# SETAREH

## BIBLIOGRAPHY (selection)

Schavemaker M./Zell T./, A. Melissen/Pola, F./Pas, J./Pörschmann, D. et al.: Zero, The international art movement of the 1950s and 1960s, Martin-Gropiusbau, Berlin 2015

Hillings, V./Schavemaker, M./Pas, J./Pörschmann, D. et al.: Zero : Countdown to tomorrow, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York 2014

Lemoine, S./Poirier, M./D'Orgeval, D./Le Pommeré, M./Rousseau, P./Brüderlin, M.: Dynamo, un siècle de lumière et de mouvement dans l'art", 1913-2013, Réunion des Musées nationaux, Paris 2013

Ceuleers, J./De Wolf, H.: Nieuwe Kunst in Antwerpen, 1958-1962, Maar het zien zelf, MHKA, Antwerpen 2012

M. Rosen, M./Weibel, P. et al.: A little-known Story about a Mouvement, a Magazine, and the Computer's arrival in Art: New Tendencies and Bit International, 1961-1973, ZKM, Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, MIT Press, Cambridge/London 2010

C. Millet, H-N Jocks et al.: ZERO. Internationale Künstler-Avantgarde der 50er/60er Jahre, Düsseldorf, Museum Kunst Palast 2006

Palmer, M.: Un art belge, d'Ensor à Panamarenko. 1880 - 2000, Editions Racine, Bruxelles 2004

Lauter, M./B. Reese, B./Weinberg Staber, M./Nocke-Schrepper, H. et al.: Konkrete Kunst in Europa nach 1945. Die Sammlung Peter C. Ruppert, Würzburg, Museum im Kulturspeicher Würzburg 2002

Hoet, J./Wittocx, E.: Walter Leblanc, , S.M.A.K., Ghent 2001

Damsch-Wiehager, R.: Zero und Paris 1960. Und Heute, Esslingen 1997

Leblanc, W./Wodek/Leblanc, N./Legrand, F.C./Maury, J.P.: Walter Leblanc, contribution à l'histoire de "Nouvelle Tendance", Atelier 340, Bruxelles 1989

Schoeller H./Schneckenburger, M.: Gruppe Zero, Galerie Schoeller, Düsseldorf 1988

Geirlandt, K.J./Mertens, Ph./Dypréau, J./Mulders, W. Van: L'Art en Belgique depuis 45, Mercator Fonds, Antwerpen 1983

Mertens, Ph: Neue Konkrete Kunst. Konkrete Kunst-Realer Raum, Galerie m, Bochum 1972

Popper, F.: L'Art Cinétique, l'image du mouvement dans les arts plastiques depuis 1860, Gauthier-Villars, Paris 1970

Legrand, F.C.: Quadrum n° 19, A.D.A.C, Bruxelles 1965

Seuphor, M.: La Peinture abstraite, sa genèse, son expansion, Flammarion, Paris 1962