



FRED SANDBACK AT PORI Wing / MEDIApoint 04.02.2011-29.04.2011

Guest Curator: Juliette Kennedy

- **Preview for the media Thursday, 03 February, from 10 am to 12 pm**
- **A curator talk and tour Friday, 04 February, at 12.**
Guest Curator Juliette Kennedy will present the exhibition.
- **The opening of the exhibition will be on Friday, 04 February, at 6 pm**
Welcome!

"I am interested in a strong, immediate, and beautiful situation."

—Fred Sandback

The Pori Art Museum presents works by the American sculptor Fred Sandback (1943-2003), an iconic figure in American art of the post-war period.

Sandback's sculptures, delicate line constructions largely made from acrylic yarn, form simple geometric shapes that explore the physical relationship between the sculpture, its surrounding architecture, and the viewer. By creating transparent works that almost eliminate mass and volume, Sandback's sculpture challenges traditional notions of mass and density. Sandback's "habitable drawings" stretch across the span of a room or vertically from floor to ceiling; huge triangles may lean against a wall, and crowds of vertical lines occupy the space like a living presence. Sandback's sculptures dissolve the space between the viewer and the artwork, inviting the viewer to share a reconceptualized, common space. As Sandback has written:

"Over the years I have preferred the title "sculptor." I like the groundedness of it, referring back to my early love for the sculpture of Michelangelo, Rodin, and Henry Moore, for example.

Early on, though, I left the model of such discrete sculptural volumes for a sculpture which became less of a thing-in-itself, more of a diffuse interface between myself, my environment, and others peopling that environment, built of thin lines that left enough room to move through and around. Still sculpture, though less dense, with an ambivalence between exterior and interior. A drawing that is habitable."

Sandback's art points us away from the domain of representation, even in the form of ideas, and toward the domain of things in themselves. As he put it in 1975:

"My work is not illusionistic in the normal sense of the word. It doesn't refer away from itself to something that isn't present. Its illusions are simply present aspects of it. Illusions are just as real as facts, and facts just as ephemeral as illusions. Illusionism is making a picture of something...I'd rather be in the middle of a situation than over on one side either looking in or looking out. Surfaces seem to imply that what's interesting is either in front of them or behind them."

Sandback is speaking literally here---to experience his work one must place oneself in its midst.

The exhibition includes a number of the large-scale sculptures for which Sandback is best known; wood reliefs, conceptual text works, drawings, and prints are also shown.

In co-operation with: Estate of Fred Sandback (USA)