

## Letter from Sol LeWitt to Eva Hesse

New York, April 14, 1965

You seem the same as always, and being you, hate every minute of it. Don't. Learn to say "Fuck You" to the world once in a while. You have every right to. Just stop thinking, worrying, looking over your shoulder, wondering, doubting, fearing, hurting, hoping for some easy way out, struggling, gasping, confusing, itching, scratching, mumbling, bumbling, grumbling, humbling, stumbling, rumbling, rambling, gambling, tumbling, scumbling, scrambling, hitching, hatching, bitching, moaning, groaning, honing, boning, horse-shitting, hair-splitting, nit-picking, piss-trickling, nose-sticking, ass-gouging, eyeball-poking, finger-pointing, alleyway-sneaking, long waiting, small stepping, evil-eying, back-scratching, searching, perching, besmirching, grinding, grinding, grinding away at yourself. Stop it and just **DO**.

From your description, and from what I know of your previous work and your ability, the work you are doing sounds very good. "Drawings – clean-clear but crazy like machines, larger, bolder, real nonsense." That sounds wonderful – real nonsense. Do more. More nonsensical, more crazy, more machines, more breasts, penises, cunts, whatever – make them abound with nonsense. Try and tickle something inside you, your "weird humor." You belong in the most secret part of you. Don't worry about cool, make your own uncool. Make your own, your own world. If you fear, make it work for you – draw and paint your fear and anxiety. And stop worrying about big, deep things such as "to decide on a purpose and way of life, a consistent approach to even some impossible end or even an imagined end." You must practice being stupid, dumb, unthinking, empty. Then you will be able to **DO!**

I have much confidence in you and even though you are tormenting yourself, the work you do is very good. Try to do some **BAD** work. The worst you can think of and see what happens but mainly relax and let everything go to hell. You are not responsible for the world – you are only responsible for your work, so do it. And don't think that your work has to conform to any idea or flavor. It can be anything you want it to be. But if life would be easier for you if you stopped working then stop. Don't punish yourself. However, I think that is so deeply engrained in you that it would be easier to **DO**.

This excerpt is taken from Gary Garrels, ed. *Sol LeWitt: a Retrospective*, MOMA, NY, 1998