

Richard Tuttle: *Loose Leaf Notebook Drawings*  
March 24–June 19, 2016  
Temporary Exhibition Gallery (10)

For Richard Tuttle, “one of the jobs of the artist is criticism.” Consistently (and, for some viewers, infuriatingly) he destabilizes [our notions of what art should be](#); undermines the critical pretensions that determine its meaning and value; and elaborates, deconstructs, expands on, and blurs fixed definitions of painting, sculpture, and drawing. His work operates in the margins between high and low, treasure and detritus, order and chaos, and matter and space, and it invites the spectator to suspend expectations and focus attention on the object itself, its material construction, and its presence in its surroundings.

This exhibition [focuses](#) on Tuttle’s *Loose Leaf Notebook Drawings*, an extensive series of suites of watercolors that Tuttle embarked on in the early 1980s. Each drawing consists of a few fleeting strokes of gouache [on](#) low-grade loose-leaf paper. The gouache [appears suspended against the fixed vertical lines](#), and has bled and formed pools, causing the paper to buckle. [No longer strictly two-dimensional](#), [the drawings stand out as](#) autonomous objects in space. With just a few strokes of his brush, Tuttle shows that what is seemingly simple is actually complex.

The Honolulu Museum of Art has 60 suites of *Loose Leaf Drawings* in its permanent collection, gifts from Dorothy and Herbert Vogel as part of their campaign to disperse their extensive important collection of Modernist art to museums nationwide. Tuttle himself curated the distribution of the drawings, [putting together each suite, sequencing them, and advising museums on their framing and display](#).

Theresa Papanikolas  
Curator of European and American Art

[Richard Tuttle \(American, born 1941\)](#)  
[Loose Leaf Notebook Drawings \(sheet count 16\), 1980-82](#)  
[Watercolor on paper](#)

[Gift of the Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection: Fifty Works for Fifty States, a joint initiative of the Trustees of the Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection and the National Gallery of Art, with generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute for Museum and Library Services, 2009. \(31543e\)](#)

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