Dan Flavin, untitled (in memory of my father, D. Nicholas Flavin), 1974
On view through summer 2022

Marfa, Texas (December 1, 2021) — A special exhibition of Dan Flavin’s 1974 untitled (in memory of my father, D. Nicholas Flavin) is on view at the Chinati Foundation through summer 2022. This work by Flavin (born 1933 in Queens, New York; died 1996 in Riverhead, New York) is one of the artist’s few pieces that can be adapted in scale to a given situation. Modules of one-foot circular and two-foot straight fluorescent bulbs travel the length and up one wall in the intimate space of a small building on Chinati’s grounds.

“Seeing this work at Chinati is a perfectly contained experience of how proficiently Dan Flavin’s art transforms architectural space into sculpture using light,” says Chinati’s curator Ingrid Schaffner. “The daylight white fluorescent bulbs appear almost bubbly in profusion and brightness—especially in contrast to the strong sunlight of a big Texas sky.”

Untitled (in memory of my father, D. Nicholas Flavin) is on loan from the Flavin Estate in celebration of the reopening of one of the foundational artworks at Chinati: the artist’s untitled (Marfa project) (1996), a permanent Flavin installation that occupies six buildings with compositions of pink, green, blue, and yellow fluorescent light. All 336 bulbs were replaced and the buildings’ windows were refurbished in a recently completed conservation project. Once available at any hardware store, the bulbs are no longer industrially produced but are now specifically handcrafted to keep the light of Flavin’s art “on.”

Observing light and its properties is central to experiencing much of the art at Chinati. However, as the one artist whose work actually plugs in, Flavin brings a characteristic ambivalence to this most empirical act of perception. His use of fluorescence introduces a spectrum of associations, from banal office spaces and Broadway marquees to luminous landscapes and sharp starlight.
About Chinati Foundation
The Chinati Foundation/La Fundación Chinati is a contemporary art museum based on the ideas of its founder, Donald Judd. The specific intention of Chinati is to preserve and present to the public permanent, large-scale installations by a select group of artists. The emphasis is on works in which art and the surrounding land are inextricably linked.

The Chinati Foundation is located on 340 acres of land on the site of the former Fort D. A. Russell in Marfa, Texas. In 1978, with financial support from the Dia Art Foundation, Judd began repairs and renovations to the fort’s historic buildings, followed by the fabrication and installation of artworks. Chinati opened to the public in 1987 as an independent, nonprofit museum. Today, Chinati is supported through the generosity of its donors and members.

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