

[Uddrag fra *On Line: Drawing Through the Twentieth Century*, Cornelia H. Butler, M. Catherine de Zegher, Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.)]

In Matta-Clark's *Tree Dance* (1971; plate 148), a performance that survives as a 16mm film, the artist and dancers hung from ropes and nets in a tree on the campus of Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York. The work advanced from earlier linear structures such as *Museum* (1970), an installation at the Bykert Gallery, New York, that included various organic materials suspended on vines, like clotheslines in space. Matta-Clark's practice was involved on other occasions with the life and mysticism of trees, for example in a body of so-called Tree Form drawings, from the early 1970s, constructed of arrows and vectors whose forceful movement nearly jumps off the page. Whether living or dead, upside-down or inhabited, trees seem to have represented for Matta-Clark a generative force — as perhaps they did for other artists across the century who mused on them, including Matisse; Ellsworth Kelly, in his Pine Branches drawings (1950; plates 149, 150); Agnes Martin, in the ethereal painting *The Tree* (1964; plate 80); Giuseppe Penone, in many works including the wall drawing *Propagazione* (Propagation, 1995–2009; plate 227); and Vera Molnar, in her *Arbres et collines géométriques* (Geometric trees and hills, 1946; plate 205), all represented in this exhibition. If Matisse said the line of his tree and plant drawings at Vence had “to grow inside me like a plant in the earth,”²⁰ Matta-Clark was more literally concerned with alchemy, and the organic materials and processes of decay and regeneration. But in his drawings he used lines of motion and circulation to anthropomorphize the tree form, and it is clear that the idea of the dancing tree had as much to do with the animated humans as with the tree's own life force.

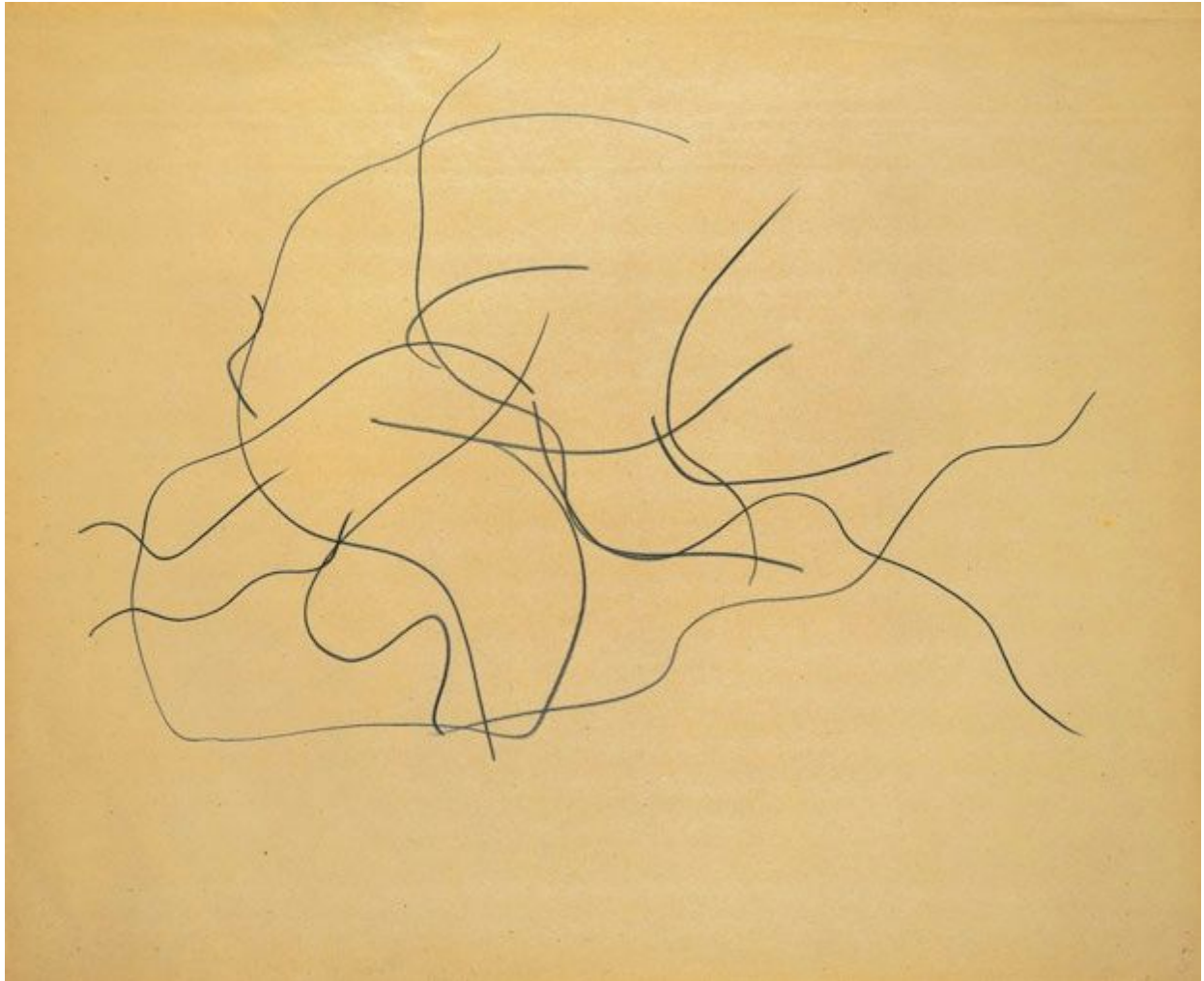
[referencer]

Link til Gordon Matta-Clark, Tree Dance, 1971:

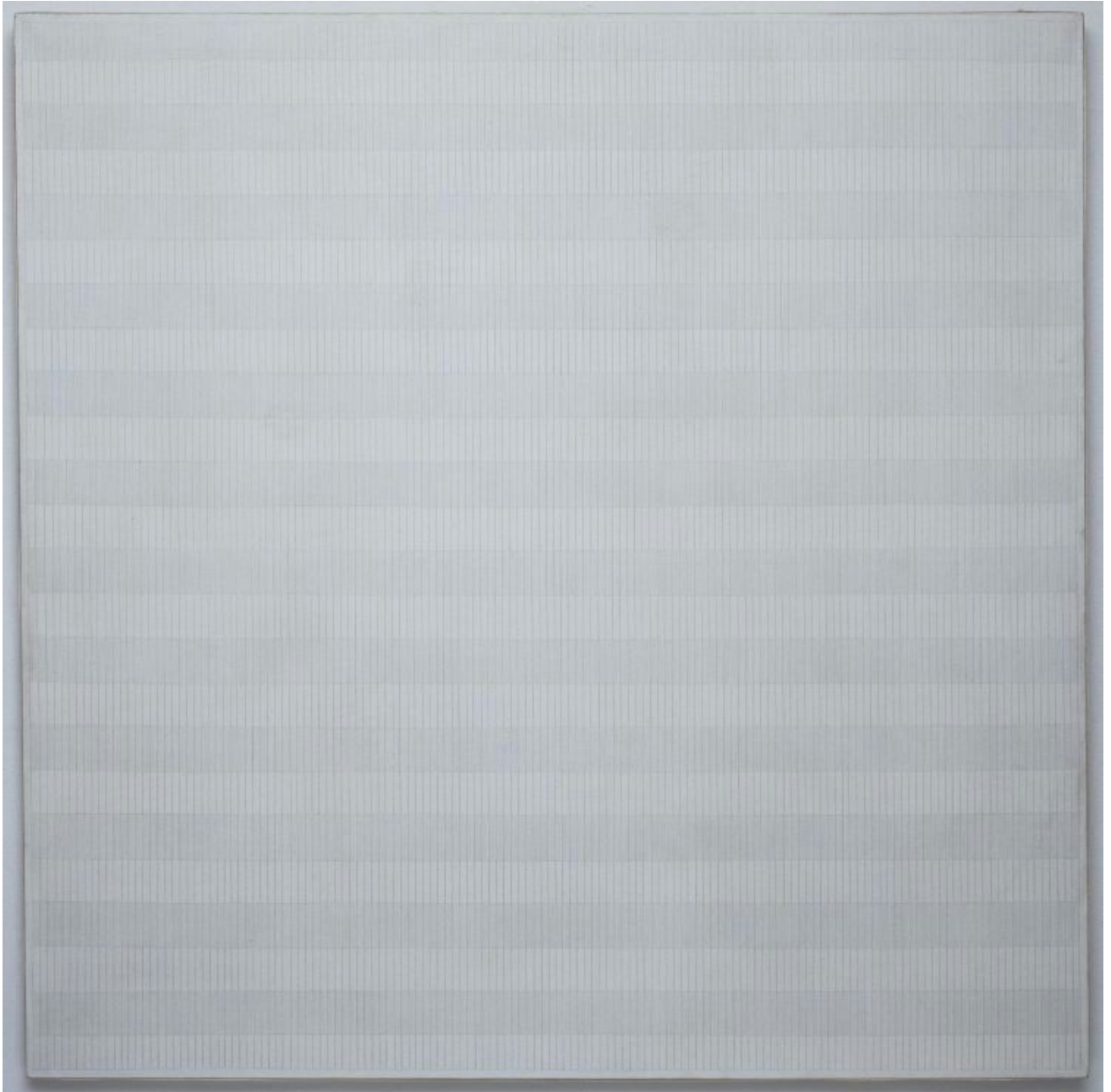
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sk7yicXcNcY>



Henri Matisse, Tree, 1951



Ellsworth Kelly, Pine Branches, 1950



Agnes Denes, The Tree, 1964



Piet Mondrian, The Flowering of an Apple Tree, 1912



Giuseppe Penone, Propagation, 1997