

## **CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES**

### **Lee Ufan**

#### **VERSAILLES**

For its annual contemporary art series, the famed Château de Versailles invited a seminal figure of the postwar Japanese Mono-ha movement, Lee Ufan, to offer perspectives to its vast gardens and interior: with works from his ongoing "Relatum" series (1972– ). The marriage of Lee's materials—boulders paired with sheets of industrial steel—against the magnificent baroque palace was intended to be "intense and silent," according to the artist. Lee's 15-meter-wide steel arch put an industrial crown on the main alley of the baroque garden, while an anonymous stone placed in a square pit was juxtaposed with André Le Notre's ersatz natural grotto. The artist brought to the fore the juxtaposition of his austere articulations with Le Notre's baroque grandeur of a disciplined natural world. Lee's timeless stone and steel were moving interventions in the prestigious palace of the self-proclaimed Sun King. *JH*



**LEE UFAN**, *Relatum-Cotton Wall*, 2014, site-specific installation. Copyright Tadzio. Courtesy the artist, Kamel Mennour, Paris, and Pace, New York.