Title: Remarks on Color

Date: 1994

Media: Single-channel video/sound installation

Video Link: http://vimeo.com/video/139606866
Description:

Video projector, two speakers, one DVD player and one DVD (color; stereo sound)

Dimensions: projection approx. 9 h. x 12 w. ft. (2.7 x 3.7 m.)

Edition of five and one artist’s proof

Note: A German version of this work entitled Bemerkungen über die Farben and a Spanish version entitled Observaciones sobre los colores also exist in an edition of five and one artist’s proof, and unique exhibition versions have been recorded in French and Portuguese.

Remarks on Color consists of a single video projection in which an eight year old child (Gary Hill’s daughter, Anastasia Hill) reads Wittgenstein’s Remarks on Color, Part 1, consisting of 88 segments, in real time over a period of 45 minutes. Hill first modified the book by replacing all philosophical, psychological and scientific terms as well as proper names with phonetically spelled versions and then asked Anastasia to negotiate every word the best she could. Consequently the meaning and inflections of pitch and pauses go “in and out of sync” with unexpected turns. Sometimes specific words are occasionally transposed, with “five-sided angles” becoming “five-sided angels,” and “now” replacing “know,” etc. The set, the child’s clothing and hair color, and the bright red book itself become visual references throughout a reading where the reader/viewer experience ‘color,’ ‘language’ and ‘play’ in a multiplicity of ways.

Spoken Text:

Ludwig Wittgenstein, Remarks on Color, written in 1951. The bilingual edition (English/German), translated by Linda L. McAllister and Margarete Schattle, which was used for the work, was edited by G.E.M. Anscombe and published by Basil Blackwell, Oxford, in 1978.

Bibliography:


Exhibition History:

An example of this work was exhibited for the first time as part of “Imagining the Brain Closer than the Eyes,” at the Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Öffentliche Kunstsammlung Basel, Basel, Switzerland, October 29, 1994 – January 29, 1995.


Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal, Quebec, Canada, January 30 – May 3, 1998.


2nd Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia, March 1 – April 1, 2007.


“De L’Écriture,” Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal, Canada, April 21 – October 8, 2007.


Notes: Reading by Anastasia Hill.