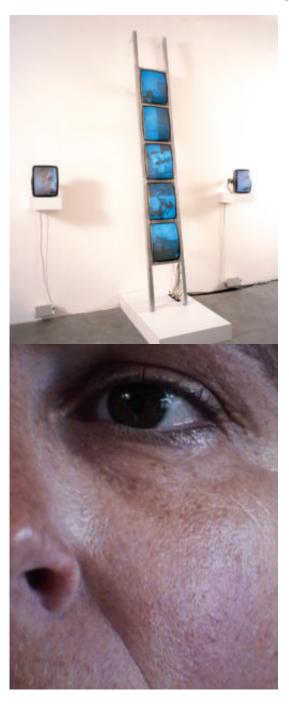
# GARY HILL



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Title: House of Cards

**Date:**1993

Media: Mixed media installation

## **Description:**

Five 20-inch LCD displays mounted on an aluminum ladder, two 15-inch LCD displays, speakers, computer/server with seven channels of Quicktime playback (black-and-white and color; stereo sound)

Dimensions: variable, ladder approximately 11 ft. high (3.35 meters)

Edition of two and one artist's proof

Note: The work was refabricated in 2007.

House of Cards consists of an aluminum structure resembling a ladder, which is approximately 11 feet high and leaning against a wall. Five 20-inch LCD displays are mounted between the ladder's rungs. Opposite (or on either side of) the ladder are two wall-mounted 15-inch LCD displays. The sequence of black-and-white images on the ladder displays consists of a slow, continuous, vertical panning motion revealing identifiable bands of rooms in a house. The camera pans up the walls, across the ceiling and down onto the floor again, scanning the entirety of every room of the house. On the two other displays are color images of close-up details of faces speaking, one a man and the other a woman. The roaming views of the faces are exactly the same. The text is recited as a chain of interlocking phrases exchanged between the two people. The last word of each sentence is always the first word of the next, which are spoken simultaneously.

### **Spoken Text:**

#### © 1993 Gary Hill

hold it here hold it there

there is where others have

have one hand here

here goes the other hand

hand over hand

hand over mouth

mouth over eyes

eyes in the back of your head

head over heels

heels in my back

back to back

back to the wall

wall to ceiling

ceiling to floor floored by the sight site of troubled thoughts thoughts doubling as other thoughts thoughts that count unaccountable things things inhabiting the room room between rooms rooms doubling as other rooms rooms without doors doors without sound sound masked between you and I I am talking to you you who lose face face lost in my hands hands laid bare by other hands hands rifling papers papers stacked against walls walls mined with displays displays of items and chosen pictures pictures of those framed moments moments when crystal broke awakening the flesh flesh and fool's blood blood from prime time time stolen by consumption

consumption of other's agony

agony safely distanced from terror terror stapled to a mouth with words words hollowed out out of rain fallen twice twice comes once once in a lifetime time to return return a glance glance from a face gone gone to mirror all all is the mind crossed out out of meaning and its place place that bodies call here here is what stands stands alongside the one one is not allowed here here are my promises promises, promises promises you keep keep within reason reason for breaking breaking and entering entering the house house with the name home

home of known quantity

quantity of questions

questions from the back

back to the bed of surrender

surrender of thought to word

word penetrated by sound

sound of dropped clothing

clothing folded without incident

incident erased from origins

origins of stories kept

kept and bound as ruptured volumes

volumes of words read

read between scribbled bodies

bodies holding bodies gone

gone from the point of going

going back to square one

one is not allowed here

here are my promises

promises, promises

promises you can't keep

keep talking around and about

about the insistence of talking

talking between you and I

I am listening

listening the wrong way

way out where you don't want to go

go before the left eye eye of our word word hollowed out out of rain fallen twice twice comes once once in a lifetime time to return return a glance glance from a face gone gone to tell all all is not lost lost inside your words words are all we have have we to speak to see? see how they run run from your mouth mouth to mouth mouth swims up upside down seeing red red from talking talking for you and I I am listening listening the wrong way way out where you don't have words words collapse thought

thought holding forth that which we cannot see seeing was once believing believing in the touch of your mouth mouth to mouth mouth of a moth eating light light from a naked bulb that sways sways awake the tortured faces faces on heads protruding from necks necks circled by stones stones trespassing time time encircling zeros zeros request one one for now now and forever forever more distant distant distances distances distances we imagine imagine between what what ever counts differences differences that make difference difference of standing positions positions of forgiveness verses rights rights claimed as older than origin

origin of no return

return of a point larger than mind mind is as close as you come come as you are with or without without knowing which is the hand that reaches out out of bounds from questions questions lost in points points on hold hold it here or there there is where others have have one hand here here goes the other hand hand over hand hand over mouth mouth over eyes eyes of angels from day one one is not allowed here here and now over and again again I begin from the back back to the voice that houses sounds sounds of plants making making believe believe it or not not in the least least of all truth

truth as it may have been being

being and time gone awry

awry from thought put on hold

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#### **Exhibition History:**

An example of this work was first exhibited at the Aarhus Kunstmuseum, Aarhus, Denmark, from September 4 – November 14, 1993 as part of the exhibition "strange HOTEL."

"Gary Hill," (travelling exhibition organized by the Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington), Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C., February

17 – May 8, 1994; Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, June 10 – August 14, 1994; Museum of Contemporary, Chicago, Illinois, September 24 – November 27, 1994; Guggenheim Museum SoHo, New York, New York, May 11 – August 20, 1995.

Group exhibition. Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Wolfsburg, Germany, May 25, 1996 – January 1, 1997.

"Language Let Loose," Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington, July 15, 2000 – April 29, 2001.

Donald Young Gallery at Art 32 Basel, Switzerland, June 12 – 18, 2001.

"Gary Hill," Donald Young Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, February 17 – April 15, 2006.

Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington, May 5, 2007 – March 2008.

Notes: Spoken texts performed by Elizabeth Conner and Mark B. McLoughlin.

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