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GARY HILL





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**Title:**In Situ

**Date:**1986

**Media:**Mixed media installation

**Description:**

Modified easy chair, modified 13-inch color monitor (cathode ray tube removed from chassis) within 20-inch monitor frame/enclosure, five painted MDF board constructions with six electric fans, motorized paper feeder, photo-copied paper, two speakers, wood platform, gray ridged carpet, controlling electronics, one DVD player and one DVD (color; mono sound)

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Dimensions: relative to platform: 12 x 16 ft. (3.66 x 4.88 m.)

Edition of two and one artist's proof

The primary components of this installation are positioned on a plywood platform routed for cabling and covered with a ridged medium-gray carpet. A "shrunk" television sits inside the frame of a larger television's frame/enclosure. A modified easy chair with a cushion slightly smaller than it should be, mirrors the condition of the television it faces. Four electric fans, positioned in the corners of the raised floor and angled towards the center of the space, intermittently turn on and off, providing a mix of air currents directed at a motorized paper-feeder mounted on the ceiling. The paper-feeder ejects a family of images related to what is being seen on the television. The images consist of off-air footage centered on "Irangate" (1986) and how that information seems to recede and lose significance over time. These images are intercut with others of the artist eating, reading, and swimming that refer to Maurice Blanchot's novel *Thomas the Obscure*. Two additional fans are mounted opposite one another in a triangular base which is placed between the chair and the television. The television itself is also controlled to turn on and off at designated times. All the automation is programmed in relationship to what is taking place on the television.

### **Spoken Text:**

### **Bibliography:**

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*2<sup>e</sup> Semaine International de Video*. Geneva: Bel Veder, Centre Gènevois de Gravure Contemporaine, 1987, pp. 44, 68, 69, 84, 85, 98 – 101.

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*Gary Hill: Viewer*. Moscow: GMG Gallery, 2010 (in Russian and English), pp. 34, 35.

*TV / ARTS / TV: La televisión tomada por los artistas*. Barcelona: Arts Santa Mònica, 2010 (in Spanish), pp. 9, 19, 20, 74 – 77.

## **Exhibition History:**

An example of this work was first exhibited at the National Video Festival of the American Film Institute, Los Angeles, California, December 4 – 7, 1986.

"The Situated Image," Mandeville Gallery, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, California, May 16 – June 14, 1987.

"Cinq pièces avec vue: 2<sup>e</sup> Semaine Internationale de Vidéo," organized by Bel Veder, Centre genevois de gravure contemporaine, Geneva, Switzerland, November 16 – 21, 1987.

Solo exhibition. Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle, Washington, September 1 – 30, 1987.

"OTHERWORDSANDIMAGES," Video Galleriet, Huset, Denmark and Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark, April 20 – May 13, 1990.

"Gary Hill: Strange Trajectories," NRW-Forum / IMAI (Inter Media Art Institute), Dusseldorf, Germany, September 15 – October 28, 2007.

"TV/ARTS/TV," Arts Santa Mònica, Barcelona, Spain, October 14 – December 8, 2010.

**Notes:** This is the first work in which the artist utilized the writings of Maurice Blanchot.