
GARY HILL



Title: Learning Curve

Date: 1993

Media: Mixed media installation

Video Link :

Description:

Video projector, plastic, plywood and stainless steel combined table/chair construction, one laserdisc player, and one laserdisc (color; silent)

Dimensions: 35 x 128 x 204 in. (89 x 325 x 535 cm.)

Edition of two and one artist's proof

Learning Curve is the first of two works that uses the classic school chair/desk (the kind that wraps around the seated person – in this instance for right-handed people) as a point of departure. The table slowly inclines, extending out 17 feet 6 inches (5.35 m.), and widens to nearly 10 feet 8 inches (3.25 m.). At the end of the table, a slightly curved projection screen, 30 inches (76 cm.) high, is mounted at the edge. Visible on the screen is a projected video image of a perfect right-breaking wave (the wave curls or tubes from one end to the other, producing a continuous curve that seemingly stands still—the surfer's green room. The work is at once an homage to surfing and a literal construction of the praxis/theory dichotomy (the one with a steep learning curve).

Spoken Text:

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Exhibition History:

An example of this work was first exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art, Oxford, England, from November 7, 1993 – January 9, 1994 as part of the exhibition, "Gary Hill: In Light of the Other." Travelled to The Tate Gallery, Liverpool, England, February 26 – May 2, 1994.

"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; Guggenheim Museum SoHo, New York, New York, May 11 – August 20, 1995; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri, October 14, 1995 – January 14, 1996.

"Gary Hill," Musée d'art contemporain, Lyon, France, May 26 – September 19, 1994.

"Cocido y Crudo," Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain, December 14, 1994 – March 6, 1995.

"The Twentieth-Century: The Age of Modern Art," Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany, May 7 – July 27, 1997; Royal Academy of Art, London, England, September 11 – December 14, 1997.

St. Norbert Arts and Cultural Centre, St. Norbert, Manitoba, Canada, July 3 – September 1, 1998.

"Surf Trip: Surf Culture Art and Artifacts," Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, California, May 12 – July 23, 2000.

"Punto de Partida," Fundación Santander, Madrid, Spain, February 20 – June 11, 2017.

"Gary Hill: Momentombs," Suwon Art Museum, Suwon, Korea, November 26, 2019 — March 6, 2020.

"Networked Nature," Hunter Museum, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Jan 26 - May 5, 2024.

Notes: