
GARY HILL





Title: Split Time Mystery

Date: 1991

Media: Site-specific installation

Description:

Seven modified 25-inch black-and-white video monitors, wooden cabinet, one-in by seven-out computer-controlled video switcher, computer, time code reader, one U-matic videocassette player and one U-matic videocassette

Dimensions variable

Unique (site-specific)

Split Time Mystery was conceived as a site-specific installation for the metro system in Vienna. The work was located on the internal front wall of a station entrance and was centered between two sets of stairs leading to the respective directional platforms. Improvised scenes from the Stadtpark in Vienna are seen as rhythmically pulsating images on a horizontal row of seven monitors. Akin to a zeotrope, the pulsating images mimic vision through the windows of a train as seen from the metro platform. Each scene retains an unedited autonomy while at the same time suggesting the possibility of a larger narrative depending on the arrival or departure of the viewer. Technically, all these scenes are “woven” frame by frame on a single videotape and are then sequentially displayed on the monitors with varying time signatures by a computer-controlled video switcher.

Gary Hill: Selected Works and catalogue raisonné. Wolfsburg: Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, 2002, GHCR 69, pp. 156.

Spoken Text:

Bibliography:

Topographie II: Untergrund, Videoinstallations in the Vienna Subway System. Vienna: Wiener Festwochen, 1991, pp. 44, 65, 66, 82 – 85. (Including the artist’s description of *Split Time Mystery*, 1991.)

Nesweda, Peter. “Von Wohnsitz zum Schleudersitz.” *Noëma Art Journal* 37 (September/October 1991) p. 81.

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Watari, Shizuko. *Gary Hill – I Believe It Is an Image*. Tokyo: WATARI-UM, The Watari Museum of Contemporary Art, 1992, unpaginated.

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Gary Hill: Selected Works and catalogue raisonné. Wolfsburg: Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, 2002, GHCR 69, pp. 156.

Exhibition History:

This site-specific temporary installation was produced for the Vienna subway system as part of the exhibition “topographic II: Untergrund,” part of the Wiener Festwochen in Vienna, Austria, September 27 – November 3, 1991.

Notes: