
Christoph Weber

Trauma, 2008

Installation, mixed media

Christoph Weber's sculptural-architectural installation evokes cinematic tropes. While the other works call for a different relationship between documenter and documented, Weber's calls for a different relationship between the viewer and the work. The viewer must enter the exhibition space with a key, and finds himself in a narrow corridor. Along the corridor are identical doors which remain shut, and in each of them—identical holes which seem to have been created by an ax. The corridor is a deliberately cliché image of the subconscious seen in many movies. Moreover, the split wood appears like a moment in the midst of a violent act, frozen in time, much like a photographic image. The work corresponds with

the other works in the exhibition through the repetition and duplication of certain images and motifs, which reverberate like the compulsive, repetitive symptoms of post-traumatic stress. The meticulous similarity between the duplicated doors and the holes alludes to the links between traumas and ongoing historical conditions that are doomed to repeat themselves. The viewer, forced to enter the piece and "activate" it with his presence in order to reach the other works, makes a conscious decision to enter into the collective subconscious of the exhibition as a rite of passage, moving from the neutrality of the art object and the white space to a space in which humanity is intensely present.

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