

recontroil

performance

22 April 2007 — Kaskadenkondensator, Basel, CH — archiv performativ, focus weekend — curated by Pascale Grau and Isabel Zürcher Duration: 20 min.

Background — Can performances be documented? Köppl/Začek are invited to make some reference to their performance karmacontroil from nine years before.

Setting — A large event space with offices.

Materials and Preparation — A white board, 200 cm x 20 cm. A nail in the middle of each of the two long edges. Two angle irons. A candle. A piece of wood. The nails driven into the edges of the board rest on the angle irons, forming a sensitive scale. On one end of the board, a burning candle. On the other end, the piece of wood balances the scale so that the side with the candle touches the floor. Two cassette players with two identically recorded cassette tapes: a 10- minute conversation between X and Y about the process through which karmacontroil was conceived. Occasionally, the accounts conflict each other.

Procedure — Through the burning of the paraffin, the scale slowly tips. X stands turned away from the scale his profile towards the audience. In front of him is a cassette player on a pedestal. At a distance of about 5 m from X, Y sits in a chair facing the audience. The other cassette player rests on his knees. The recorded conversation is played on both cassette players. X and Y press play and stop, fast-forward and rewind. The conversation is unsynchronized, occasionally simultaneous and interrupted by pauses. When both recordings have been played entirely, the performance ends. Finally, the video documentation of karmacontroil is screened.

Results — During the discussion it becomes clear that the video documentation cannot duplicate the atmosphere of the performance. The associated time and space-specific characteristics of a performance are lost.

