

My Living Room

1999 © Franz Wassermann

Instructions for use

Pictures will be produced by photographing moments directly from a running television screen. The stills will be taken indiscriminately, consisting of the content of the various television programs and films. Two copies will be made of the photographs and on the back side of each will be a label reading "My Living Room" plus an internet address. The two identical shots will be also labelled with identical numbers. One shot will be dated 20. 04. 99 and signed, the second dated 30. 04. 99 and signed, thus creating an original out of each of the two identical photographs.

Details

The pictures signed and dated 20.4.99 will be consecutively numbered.

These works will be distributed in various public spaces of diverse nature (call boxes, gallerys, tramcars, pubs, cafe"s, etc.). They will also be sent by mail to various persons and institutions. The "visitors of this exhibition" may do various things with the photographs; take them home, keep them, give them to other people, put them in different places and so on. The visitors may also enter the virtual "MY LIVING ROOM" and commicate there, or search there for the purchaser of the corresponding (serial number) original photograph.

The pictures signed and dated 30.04.99 will be consecutively numbered.

These shots will be framed and and installed in a real "MY LIVING ROOM", for example galleries, furniture or art stores, etc. These framed shots are thus exhibited in a "private space" and can be purchased. Visitors of this exhibition may also enter the virtual "MY LIVING ROOM" by means of the internet address. There the visitor can, in addition, make and install on the website his own photos taken of a running television screen.

Why photograph the television screen?

The medium television is a sort of collective memory, which educates us passively and only communicates information unilaterally. My reaction to this is to take photographs of this process indiscriminately, to distribute them, and, through the internet address, offer a forum of active remembrance and communication.

Why do the signed photographic prints have identical numbers but different dates?

This concerns the matter of private space (30.04.99) and public space (20.04.99). The dates allude to Adolf Hitler, who made a gift of one of the first television sets industrially produced in Germany to Eva Braun.

The 20.04 was Hitler's birthday and an official German holiday = public space.

The 30. 04 was the day of Hitler's death by suicide in a bunker in Berlin = private space.

Letter campaign

In this campaign, letters will be sent containing a print from the first series of photographs. The letters will be sent to persons and institutions, chosen randomly and without any specific purpose in mind. The dates are evident from the postmark. The handwritten envelope should suggest a personal and emotional connection to the recipient, similar to that which the medium television creates in that it works through the suggestion of authenticity and true emotion to connect to and bond with the viewer.

Goal

Art becomes affordable for all. Anyone can actively take part in the process and become a part of this work of art. "MY LIVING ROOM" - a global module.

Translation by Jack Poppell and Robin Lee