

TRACKING HUMAN VITALITY THROUGH OBSERVED MOVEMENT AS ART

CONTEXT

Morgan O'Hara's art research, culturally contextualized in the practice of drawing as a fundamental human endeavor is continuous with the time-honored practice of drawing from life and builds on the historical continuum of the field. This practice requires presence, connection, direct observation and LIVE TRANSMISSION. Through this work, the artist transcends arbitrary "oppositions" between abstract and figurative art, between purely gestural expression and documentary intent, resulting in narrative work which is not figurative.

PROCESS

LIVE TRANSMISSIONS render visible normally invisible or fleeting movement patterns through seismograph-like drawing done in real time. Trajectories inherent in human activity are carefully observed and drawn simultaneously with both hands. Following closely the intensity of each segment of an activity, the direction of the line as well as the quality of its intensity is transmitted. As a person makes a gentle movement, a delicate line is drawn. If the action tracked is forceful or violent, a correspondingly vigorous line is made.

METHOD

The method developed requires close observation and actual drawing in real time with multiple razor-sharp pencils and both hands. Simultaneous to an action taking place, O'Hara draws methodically with multiple razor-sharp pencils and both hands, condensing movement into accumulations of graphite line which combine the controlled refinement of classical drawing with the sensuality of spontaneous gesture. Time-space coordinates for each drawing are recorded with precision, contextualizing each activity in a specific continuum and geographic place.

INTERPRETATION

This work is done as far as possible without "thinking." The dialectic between observer and participant, control versus relaxed participation coalesce to form the conceptual base for LIVE TRANSMISSIONS. Scale and physical limitations are determined by real-life expediency. In 2023 there exist approximately 4000 LIVE TRANSMISSION drawings done both privately and publicly on five continents. LIVE TRANSMISSIONS communicate beyond the specificity of language.