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Cold Hard Facts

Paul Kelley
Claremont Graduate University

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Abstract

COLD HARD FACTS is an ephemeral installation composed of a projector, digital images and ice. The work continues my interest in having the viewer slow down to have a more thoughtful and absorptive experience with the work and surrounding space. With a short-lived duration, the piece considers the transitory nature of things and how truths can be misconstrued as facts, whereas truths are malleable and facts are not. They are cold, hard and indifferent.

Keywords

Paul Kelley, COLD HARD FACTS, Art, Installation Art, Sculpture, Projection, Perception, Light, Shadow, Ice, Ephemeral, Transitory

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This consideration is an assigned meaning – themes that I thought about during the creation of the work. It is not something the viewer will necessarily see or think about when experiencing it. The work has no inherent meaning. What matters is how the viewer experiences the space and elements involved thereby creating meaning out of the interaction.

Much of perception is about experiencing and relating to what surrounds us. My practice is about slow and simple observation and the work is about having an experience – an experience of seeing, observing, questioning and slowing down. Projected light, along with spatial and sculptural qualities induces a playful illusion in the moment of trying to make sense of what the eye sees. It is an effort to challenge the viewer's expectations so that they have to stop and examine what they see. Initially, they cannot be so certain.

Through this uncertainty there is the potential for a greater capacity in expanding perception. The brain has some work to do and has to interpret all the information that has been presented in the space. But in making sense of the illusion, initial thoughts at a

moment's glance might disagree with reality.

For example, as you first take in information your brain will crave an immediate answer for how all the words are cast onto the wall. In this perceived reality you might want to quickly attribute the production of COLD HARD FACTS as it appears on the surface to light falling upon objects. But as you continue to consider the elements at play you may come to see that objects produce only the FACTS image – light falling upon ice casting a shadow. That fact, along with the fact that the COLD HARD images have a different source independent of objects producing them is reality, and may not have been what you first perceived.

Another element at play is time. Perception is not only about what you perceive in the moment but moreover your interpretation of what you see influenced by past experiences. No moment is exactly the same. The work allows the viewer to slow down and witness changing conditions. Ice melts because the surrounding air is warmer than the ice. It is an energy transfer – a stream of changing activity that can be visually experienced. The fleeting character is a way to see the work and space differently from one moment to the next.