

"The Large Piece of Turf – Contemporary Art in the Public Domain"

"Altered to Suit (Sol LeWitt incomplete open cube 6/23, 1974)", 2006

Jonathan Monk

Sebalder Platz/Rathausplatz and Brunnengässchen

Powder-coated aluminium profiles (10 x 12), 7.3159 x 2.44 x 1.00 metres

CONCEPT:

No April fool's hoax: before the legendary Champions League match between Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund on 1 April, 1998, one of the goals collapsed, and there was no replacement. The kick-off in the Estadio Santiago Bernabeu was considerably delayed. And TV moderators Günter Jauch and Marcel went on to win the Adolf-Grimme-Preis for TV journalism for the way they brilliantly bridged the long enforced gap ("... what this match would need is an early goal ...").

Similar things happen anywhere any time – so it comes as no surprise that Jonathan Monk erected a monument to this kind of mishap with this two paired sculptures "Altered to Suit (Sol LeWitt incomplete open cube 6/23, 1974)" 2006. At the same time, this work which is the original size of a football goal, is also a variation of the mentioned sculpture by minimal artist Artisten Sol LeWitt – producing a playful mix of "low art" and "high art". For the "Large Piece of Turf", the two sculptures – seemingly "at odds" and worlds apart – are, of course, fashioned from the material of "real" goal posts (powder-coated aluminium), and they are some 105 metres apart, with a few rows of houses in between. Separated by the length of a football pitch, in fact.

As a by-product, this work is also a parody of the type of abstract sculpture of a rather mediocre quality which popped up in the public domain in almost every German city in the 1970s.

Jonathan Monk whose intelligent, more "reflective" than "sensuous" art can be seen in the tradition of both Concept and Minimal Art, has often chosen the football topic for his works. For example in his work in progress "The Little Things Make All the Difference": the artist cut out the ball from various newspaper photographs depicting football scenes, and re-inserted it in a different position. Now everything is wrong, of course: the striker misses the ball altogether, the goalie clutches at thin air ... Thus art is just as like "real life": minute changes can stand reality on its head, and all of a sudden, new perspectives open up, much more than just unfortunate mishaps!