

Pressrelease

Seth Price Sculpture

Reception 25th March 2006
Duration 28th March–6th May 2006
Opening hours Tuesday–Saturday 12–6pm

For the British, British men in particular, men of possibly the Edwardian period, or in any case men of a certain social class at some point prior to World War Two, an almost unconscious game of conversation was to defer the verb to the very end of a sentence; a display of breeding, a showing-off, a décor hole: “Let’s don’t us down the garden path lead”. *Keep deferring the verb.*

We’re familiar with artistic explorations of banality, emptiness, depletion, etc., which seem to focus their passive aggressions on the image. But every image is facile. Something quiet and restful. How to make an art that is not interested in the image and its politics? It may be true that images are one of the pivotal regulators of contemporary society, whether in advertising, in art, or in the cultural programming that falls some place between. Should there not be, however, regulators of modern life which fall outside the realm of the image, which have instead to do with codes and processes lacking any visibility? Or might it be true that everything reduces to images?

Well, like most liberals I prefer questions to solutions. The mission of a virus is not to kill its host, but to preserve its host, and thus itself. In any case, subversion is not an activity in and of itself; nor can it be an end or goal. As ever, the artist’s work is an analysis of the artist’s relation to the work, the artist resists art, the artist resists the artist, and other extrapolations along those lines. Resistance from an unusual quarter. As in the following anecdote:

Recent radical labor activity has tended to come from an unusual quarter: migrant workers who have reached the US from areas to the South: Mexico, Central America, South America. In many cases these workers cannot necessarily speak English, and may not actually be American citizens. They may in fact have no intention of becoming even long term residents, hoping to put in only a few years of work before returning to their country of origin with full pockets. How is it that radical left politics now finds itself springing from this constituency? It may be instructional to turn to earlier moments in left US social history. One finds the same patterns in the currents of the Socialist 1930s, although in that case the new immigrants were from Europe. The point is, in this country much of the most fervent agitation on the progressive labor side of things has come from foreigners, whether it be those who weathered the Eastern European 1950s, or the Latin American 1970s and ‘80s, or whatever. Truly a home grown radicalism falling in line with everything we expect from the United States. OK, basically what happened is, America’s Latin American misadventures of the 1970s and 1980s produced a new wave of radicalized immigrants from below, bringing revolutionary organizing strategies and demands that will remain here even after they have departed.

Seth Price

Born in 1973 in Palestine,
Seth Price lives and works
in New York City.