

SURFACE THINKING REVISITED

These three images were originally exhibited in the spring of 1993 as part of a series of ten in a show entitled SURFACE THINKING at The Ryerson Gallery, 80 Spadina Avenue. They have been modified since that time. The original framing can be seen in the small image beside each piece.

The images explore ideas of realism and formalism within photographic representation. The intentional lack of depth and photo collage is used to make the viewer aware of the literal surface of the image, attempting to give it an equal importance to the subject matter.

The materials that were chosen to create the collage; watercolour paper, photocopied acetate, colour copies, clear packing tape, staples and glue, were chosen because of their non-archival properties. These images were meant to age, and with that, change. This change further reinforces the awareness of the 'surface'. What you are seeing is the result of that experiment, 20 years later.

The subject of the series, a slowly decaying strip of motels in Toronto's west end, were chosen for both their austere geometric aesthetic and their iconic cultural significance. The stories they tell are the ones prescribed to them. They are mysterious and enigmatic. They were photographed in such a way to take them out of their context and to reinforce their two dimensionality. The motels, like the images that represent them, were aging and allowed to decay, eventually disappearing.