



Art: *Broken Kilometer*

Site: Ground floor, industrial building

Place: Dia Gallery, SoHo

Location: New York, NY

Artist: Walter De Maria



diaart.org

With this work, it isn't so much about the perfect symbiosis, but rather the combined effect of screwing with your head, and how neither one alone, the art nor the site, could have the impact without the other. An indoor space, large though it is, cannot accommodate a kilometer. This one does; such is this man-made measure of land or distance transposed onto a human dimension of habitable space, two distinct concepts that rarely interact or intersect. It is science made visible, or visual. The beauty is in the labored perfection of the kilometer, i.e. the brass rods, in contrast to the imperfection of the former industrial vestige they inhabit: spatial timelessness encapsulated in a very-much-of-its-time venue. It's quite possible that the rods could have been fabricated in a place very like this one. The rods, all uniform and regimented like the Terra Cotta Army, extend into a perspectival distance, broken not only into equal lengths, but also broken by the extant row of cast iron columns, which add another dimension to the piece, and by a few intersecting overhead pipes. Extremely linear and spatial, it could be an Alberti exercise for the twentieth century.

Impact:

- Context/contrast
 - Scale
- Conceptual
 - Light
- Containment
 - Minimal

Art-to-Site Rating: High

View Date: June 2008



Sculpturehead

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