



Art: *North, East, South, West*

Site: Interior, factory-building space

Place: DIA: Beacon

Location: Beacon, NY

Artist: Michael Heizer

This is a study in negative space situated in a vast open room, bracketed by square pillars on one side and a very modular window wall on the other. If you put your ear to the ground, like listening for an approaching train, you would see nothing. Perhaps that is the point. These huge geometric holes, cut with some futuristic auger deep into the polished concrete floor, are shapes and volumes (that can't be seen into from behind swag-rope barriers), the basic elements of sculpture, but who knew that they could be so powerful as total voids. And they are existentially so present in their emptiness, as potent in expressing thereness as any solid forms can be, maybe more so, since we are confronted with imagined space. As artists, we all learn the use and value of negative space – Mr. Heizer wins the prize for best use. The piece, though, is aided and abetted by its environs in a meaningful partnership. There is the geometry of the space itself, a rectilinear gallery with a grid of wooden structure: spans of beams meeting square posts; ceiling openings, off-center from the grounded holes, cut away into two huge skylight rectangles for clerestory windows, letting in vast quantities of natural light overhead. Two walls are brick, the only color present, the long wall a bank of divided windows that permits a glimpse of contrasting green trees on the outside of the glass. Geometry inside, not nature, human



diacenter.org, Tom Vinetz

hand; all elements repeating the organizational structure. And in interaction with them is the light, from above and on one side, reflecting on the shiny floor, emphasizing the contrasts, illuminating the black holes, revealing their imagined depths, ever changing with the sun's movement. The voids wait there like some sort of inside-out solar timepiece or a primal Morse Code pattern incised in the floor.

Impact:

- Containment
- Scale
- Primal/spiritual
- Exemplar use of both interior & exterior space
- Negative space
- Experiential
- Infinite

Art-to-Site Rating: High

View Date: July 2007



Sculpturehead

copyright © 2010, Probasco Haus Press LLC