

“DEATH OF A MOMENT”

Management, installation and maintenance of a site specific kinetic sculpture

Eugenia Stamatopoulou

Contemporary Art Conservator - Art Historian-Installation Manager

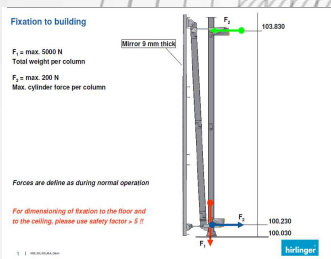
The Dakis Joannou Collection, Athens, Greece

Stamatopoulou@deste.gr

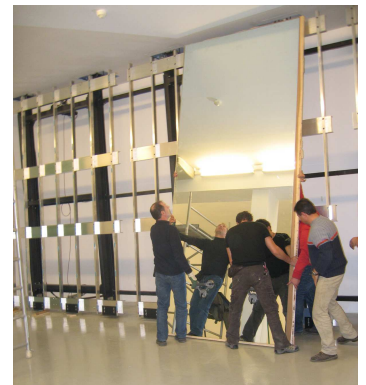
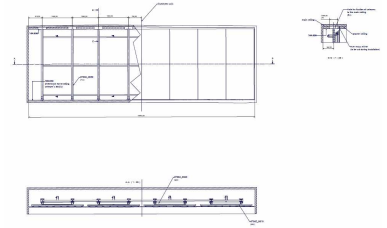
“Death of a moment” (2007) is a kinetic installation created by the Swiss neo-dada artist Urs Fischer (Zurich, 1973-). The work is installed since 2007 at DESTE Foundation, in Athens, Greece



The installation consisting of mounted mirrors extending from ceiling to floor, set in motion (wave) by a hydraulic system, makes the room appearing distorted and fluctuating.



The sculpture is conceived as a site specific project that presents challenges related to its production and long term presentation. Various technical and site obstruction challenges need to be taken in consideration by the conservator and installation manager, in the framework of such project (i.e. availability of spatial planning, security precautions etc.)



After the installation and running of the kinetic structure during several hours (during exhibition's), various troubles occurred. In particular, due to long period of inactivity severe oil leakage has detected at the air-pump and at the sub-pumps. This was the result of gaskets dryness. Gaskets has been replaced, new oil added and regular starting (once to twice per week for 20 min) was set in order to keep the hydraulic system in good condition.



Long term preservation “Death of a moment” includes regular inspection and control of all elements composing the kinetic sculpture (mirrors, glues, metallic structure, pumps, central unit, power etc) so as to keep it moving!