



sumus solum quot mentes credant
john ros

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sumus solum quot mentes credant was an installation created at spool mfg. in johnson city, new york, between september and november 2001.

this large undertaking would be the first installation completed by john ros. it combined the minimal, spacial elements of two-dimensional drawings and paintings, and the physical elements of earth-sculptures. lighting helped set the stage, while the cold, damp feel of the sub-basement space inundated the viewer and transcended them at once to the familiar and the unknown.

we are only what our minds believe, the title translated from latin, set the pace for this visual requiem, giving time and space equal importance throughout the exhibit. walking through, one feels as though each moment is still — as though each image, each room, is a single frame from a more complete moving image.

sumus solum quot mentes credant, 2001
mixed media installation
spool mfg. / johnson city, ny us

for angelo ippolito, ernestine & yvon nadeau
gendron designs 2004 / 2020

cover / *remnant (404B)*, 2001
oil on paper, mounted on board
26 x 19 in / 66 x 48.3 cm

memory — the fleeting moment. an idea of reality. from the realm of consciousness and being. we are the sum value of our total systems and beliefs. from collaborative to singular, our realities mingle with each other in awkward states of melancholy. this work deals with the simple and the immediate, searching for a relative reality. i tap into memory, in search of truth. upon completion, i focus on the existential and challenge the viewer to do the same.

this visual requiem helps to depict a question of time and mortality. the finite and the chance. silence, darkness, dampness, chill — the presence of time becomes more ominous. we become more fixated. more aware. we find the nuances of life through these paths with the possibility of the looming question answered.

room one.

the first room sets the pace for the installation. four pieces hang high on the wall, projected with a halo of light from above. earth sculptures are also placed in the room opposite the wall pieces to the left. these mirror each other in the room and on opposite walls, which leads us into room two.

room one. (detail)
acrylic on paper,
mounted on board w/
light projections

2d ea / 36 x 24 in
91.5 x 61 cm

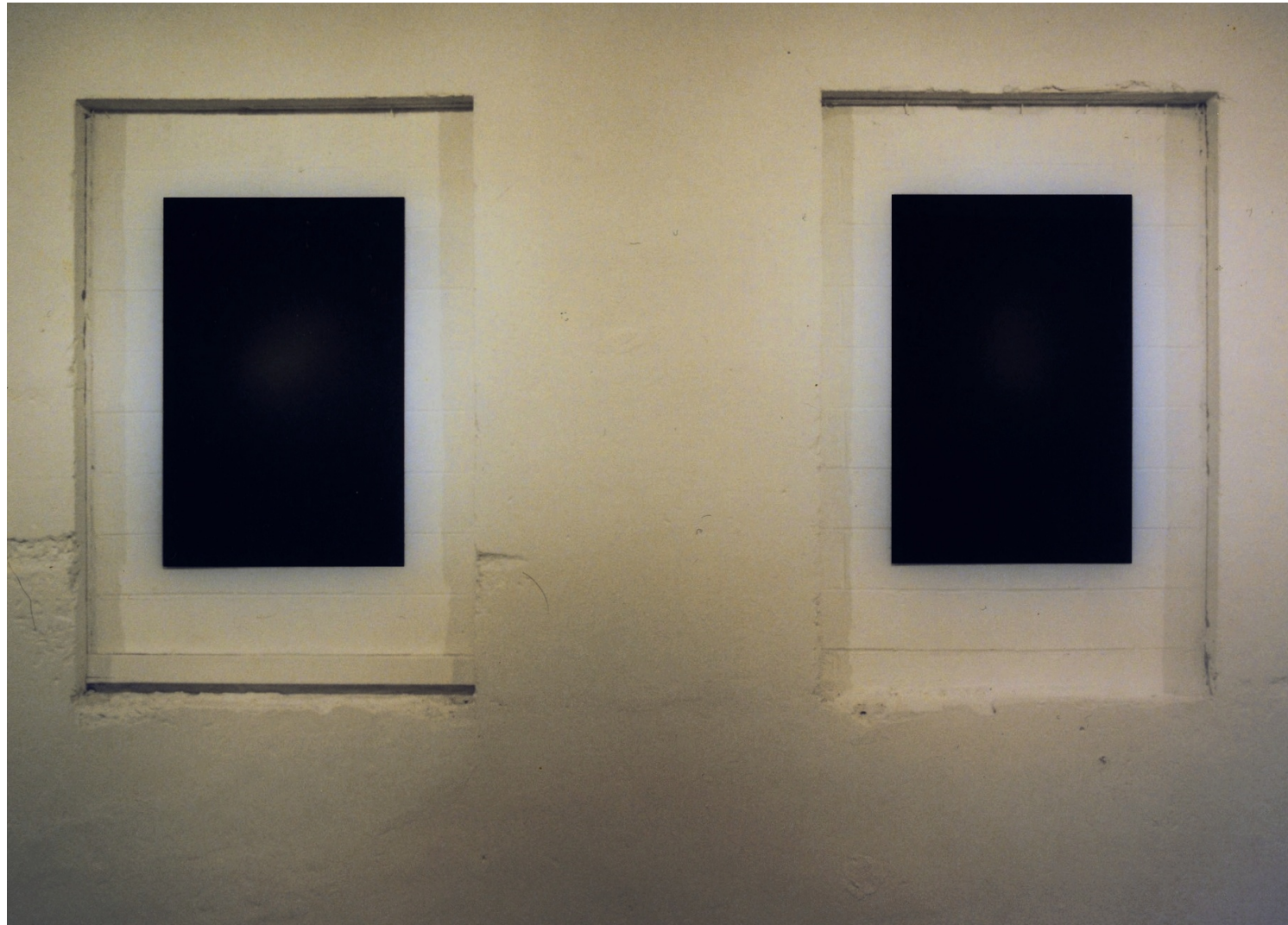
room / 15 x 30 x 15 ft
4.6 x 9 x 4.6 m



room one. (detail)



room one. (detail)



room one. (detail)
top soil, lights

3d ea / 8 × 4 × 4 ft
2.4 × 1.2 × 1.2 m

room / 15 × 30 × 15 ft
4.6 × 9 × 4.6 m



rooms one and two.

rooms one and two.
(detail)

3d ea / $8 \times 4 \times 4$ ft
 $2.4 \times 1.2 \times 1.2$ m

rm 1 / $15 \times 30 \times 15$ ft
 $4.6 \times 9 \times 4.6$ m

rm 2 / $15 \times 30 \times 8$ ft
 $4.6 \times 9 \times 2.4$ m



room four.

rooms three and four
face room two and
open to adjoining
galleries of dimly lighted
large charcoal drawings.
these images range in
tone and contrast and
play with space and
time subtly through the
horizon line.

room four. (detail)
charcoal on rives bfk

2d / 88 x 42 in
223.5 x 106.7 cm

room / 12 x 15 x 15 ft
3.6 x 4.6 x 4.6 m



rooms three and two.

rooms three and two.
(detail)

2d / 88 × 42 in
223.5 × 106.7 cm

3d / 8 × 4 × 4 ft
2.4 × 1.2 × 1.2 m



room three.

room three. (detail)

2d ea / 88 x 42 in
223.5 x 106.7 cm

room / 12 x 15 x 15 ft
3.6 x 4.6 x 4.6 m



rooms three and four.

rooms three and four.
(detail)

2d ea / 88 x 42 in
223.5 x 106.7 cm

rooms / 12 x 15 x 15 ft
3.6 x 4.6 x 4.6 m



room five.

room five, the largest room, features a long, earth sculpture upon entry, over forty feet long. dimmly lighted from above with soft yellow light, the smell of earth radiates and fills the room as the dampness of walls creeps throughout the space. a monotype triptych hangs at the back wall of the room and leads you to the glow of the final room.

room five.

top soil and lights,
monotype triptych

3d / 15 x 40 x 10 ft
4.6 x 12.1 x 3 m

2d ea / 25 x 19 in
63.5 x 48.3 cm

room / 15 x 50 x 30 ft
4.6 x 15.2 x 9.1 m



room five. (detail)



room five. (detail)
monotype triptych

2d ea / 25 x 19 in
63.5 x 48.3 cm

room / 15 x 50 x 30 ft
4.6 x 15.2 x 9.1 m



rooms five and two.



rooms five and two.
(detail)

room five. (detail)



room six.

the final and smallest room features a single piece on the floor. assembled with urine, cadmium yellow pigment in beakers and a single lamp, the piece pulls the viewer prostrate on the floor to view the piece in its entirety.

room six. (detail)
mixed media: beakers,
urine, cadmium yellow
pigment and light

3d / 24 x 18 x 12 in
61 x 45.7 x 30.5 cm

room / 15 x 8 x 8 ft
4.5 x 2.4 x 2.4 m



