

INNOCENCE, FROZEN IN PLASTIC – DISSOLVED

The rolling dolls with perky plastic cheeks and the soft, sad-eyed plush pets in this installation invoke a deeply buried nostalgia for the loss of an affective sense of materiality that is – paradoxically – generated by the post-industrial hyper-production of “things.” As our environment is cluttered with an unprecedented excess of material objects, our culture witnesses a steadily dissolving ability to infuse these objects with emotion. It is this emotional investment that animates our relationship with objects and with materiality as such. Now that this emotional link is loosening, our world is changing. These old-fashioned toys, once brimming with the energy from a child’s power of imagination and warmth of her touch are now discarded, as are the imaginative and emotive habits that go along with them. The installation “Innocence – Dissolved” thus metaphorically performs the impasse of fast lane consumerism wrapped into the ideology of progress; the discarded toys suffocating in the thickened gooey mass of the past embodied emotional investment, that has nowhere else to go except release into obsession with possession and consumption.

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