

John Massey - Clip 4

Room 202: A model

I always thought of the model works as tools for vision. I think it is often slightly unnerving to be in the presence of something that has been idealized. The model of the classroom, *Room 202*, is perfect. My hope was that this perfection along with the amorphous soundtrack would throw the viewer back on him or herself. That somehow being in the context of this little hyper-reality would cue a greater sense of presence in a so-called normal reality.

In a way the little classroom and perhaps the work as a whole, tries to create a context for the idea of the imagination. We are all interacting within our minds with what surrounds us. This interplay is largely ungoverned and not within the context of will..... you see something and something else comes into your head. This is the fertile ground that *Room 202* is idealistically built on.

The audio is a series of textbook definitions of physical elements such as coal, lead, rubber, iron. They are read by a male voice, which has a didactic tone like that of teacher. The sounds that follow each of the definitions relate to the element described and as well they attempt to connect to the act of looking. For instance what follows the definition of lead is the sound of a target pistol being loaded and fired. Obviously bullets are made of lead but also the sounds of the shots in a way mimics looking at specific

things. The rays of light returning to your eye parallel the act of focusing in or targeting specific things in the model.

