

Artist statement accompanying the installation at the Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh, PA, 1991-92.

Cold Fashioned Room

Buzz Spector

This room was assembled during August and September of 1991, although it is set within a space constructed almost a century earlier. The building has been rehabilitated and converted into an exhibition space for contemporary art. This room has been restored and decorated so as to simulate its original incarnation. The look of the room is a fiction. It represents an idealized—hence nostalgic—moment of its history as a space. What is impossible to see in photographic reproduction is the coldness of the room. Hidden machines have lowered its temperature below freezing. This effect is physical but invisible. It is the “real” experience here. Frozen, the room becomes another order of representation of itself. Coldness is its inscription.

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