

Flood

Wood, salt brine, string, multi-media
4" x 44" x 56"
August 2005

This piece is a direct result of the tsunami in the Pacific. Those events left me shocked – the numbers of people lost and the devastation are beyond my grasp. Although I did my best to avoid images from the mass media, this piece insinuated itself into my consciousness.

A diorama of my current neighborhood is simplified and completely white. The scene is flooded with water (salt brine) which reaches the rooftops of the houses. As the water evaporates, salt crystals will form and encrust everything. Telephone poles mark the position of the road no longer visible, their wires disappearing below the surface where they have fallen from the onrush of the flood. A video projects down from the ceiling – clips of a family film of my siblings and me from my childhood, swimming, then fading to white. It is an image of my old neighborhood overlaying the one I live in presently contradicting the stillness and tragedy of the present.

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