

PAUL GEES

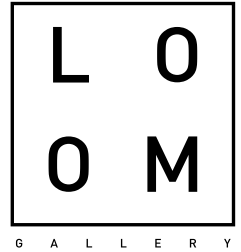
FONDAZIONE KENTA

OVERVIEW #2

23 OCTOBER - 17 NOVEMBER 2019

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Stepping into Paul Gees' world is smooth and natural because the elements that constitute it are common to many artistic currents that interest most of us: the wood from certain works of Arte Povera, the stones of Land Art, and the geometric metal of minimalist icons finally seemed to have come together in a compositional and literal balancing act that turned out to have an unexpected lightness and a subtle, almost unexpected, sense of humour.

Paul Gees's sculptures are in equilibrium. They are made of unpolished stones that stabilise and balance what the artist has fashioned from metal and wood. Geometric shapes and clean edges make room for the flaws that water and weather have left on these rocks; they become an integral part of the composition, even if they are only propped or wedged so that they can easily be removed, as if out of respect, as if to create a sense of risk that makes some perfectly stable works seem precarious.

The sculptures interact with the space they are in and often adapt to it. They make elements of a gallery seem fragile, by echoing them, or fill a stairwell with elements one would not normally expect to find in a vertical installation. Even when he is not shaping matter, his approach is still that of a sculptor: some of his photographs document sculptures or actions involving natural elements, that form lines or patterns, like a series of branches, stripped of their bark, that create an unexpected alignment with the dark background. His drawings are often ideas for installations, and he adds light and depth to his sketches using reflective materials such as bronze. Another simple, immediate, instinctive gesture.

Launched by Marco and Giorgio Alverà together with their cousins in memory of their grandmother, Kenta Alverà, writer, art historian and activist for women's rights, **Fondazione Kenta** acts as a non-profit platform to connect people, energy and ideas, in support of the arts, culture, environmental sustainability and education.

With this spirit, since March 2019, the Foundation, which is based in "Fabbrica Sassetti", a former textile factory in the heart of Milan's Isola neighborhood, has launched a program of activities aimed at promoting the encounter between artisans of culture, artists and citizens of the Isola area and of all of Milan, as well as to deepen cultural interconnections.

Entrare nel mondo di Paul Gees è immediato perché gli elementi che lo costituiscono sono comuni a tante correnti artistiche che interessano la maggior parte di noi: il legno di certi lavori d'Arte Povera, le pietre della Land Art, il ferro geometrico di certe icone minimali sembrano finalmente mescolati in un equilibrio compositivo e letterale che risulta avere un'inaspettata leggerezza e un sottile, quanto imprevisto, sense of humour.

Le sue sculture sono costituite da pietre non lavorate che sistemano e bilanciano il lavoro dell'artista, intervenuto su ferro e legno. Le geometrie e i tagli netti lasciano spazio alle imperfezioni che l'acqua e le intemperie hanno impresso in quelle rocce; divengono parte integrante delle composizioni anche se solo appoggiate o incastrate, in modo da poter essere sempre rimosse, come per rispetto, come per creare una sensazione di potenziale pericolo da far sembrare incerte opere ben sicure.

Le sculture dialogano con lo spazio e spesso vi si adattano rendendo fragili, copiandoli, elementi strutturali di un'architettura, con componenti normalmente impreviste per la costruzione di installazioni verticali. Quando non lavora la materia l'approccio è comunque da scultore: alcuni lavori fotografici sono documentazioni di sculture o interventi su elementi naturali che creano linee o geometrie. I disegni a loro volta sono spesso idee per installazioni e vengono arricchiti con materiali riflettenti come il bronzo, con lo scopo di dar luce e profondità. Un altro gesto semplice, immediato, istintivo.

Avviata da Marco e Giorgio Alverà insieme ai loro cugini per rendere omaggio alla loro nonna, Kenta Alverà, scrittrice, storica dell'arte e attivista per i diritti delle donne, **Fondazione Kenta** si propone come piattaforma non profit per connettere persone, energie e idee, al sostegno dell'arte, della cultura, della sostenibilità ambientale e dell'educazione.

Con questo spirito, da marzo 2019, la Fondazione, che ha sede nella Fabbrica Sassetti, ex stabilimento industriale tessile nel cuore del quartiere di Isola, ha avviato un programma di attività volte a promuovere l'incontro tra artigiani della cultura, artisti e cittadini del quartiere Isola e di tutta Milano, e approfondire le interconnessioni culturali.

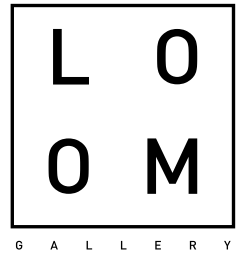
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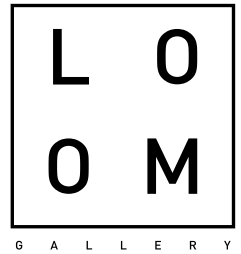
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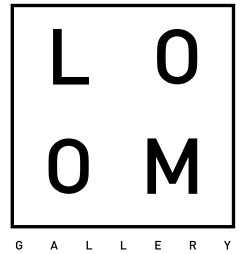
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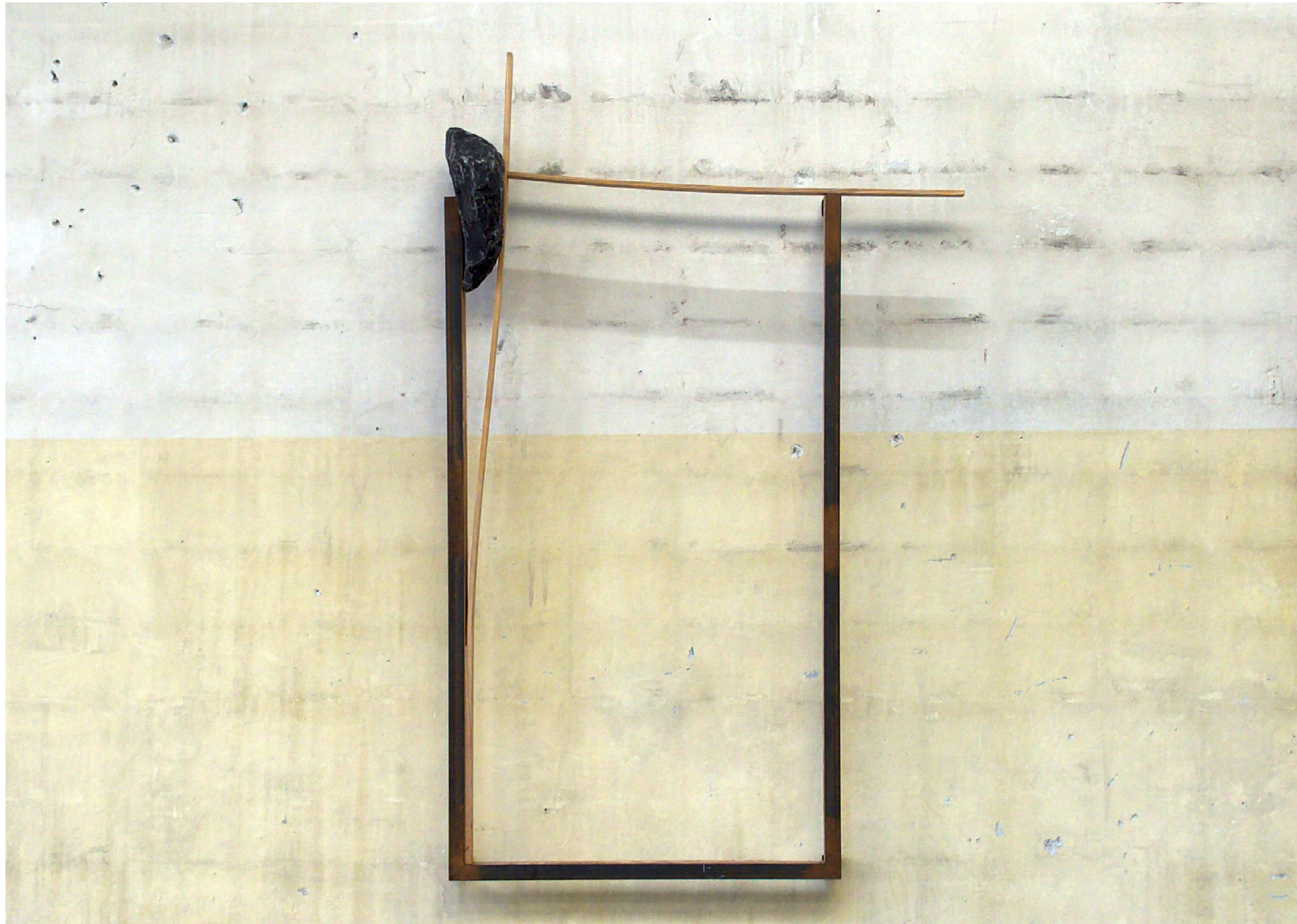
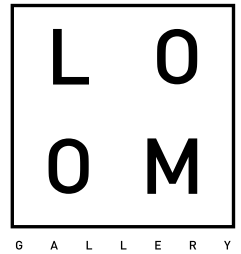
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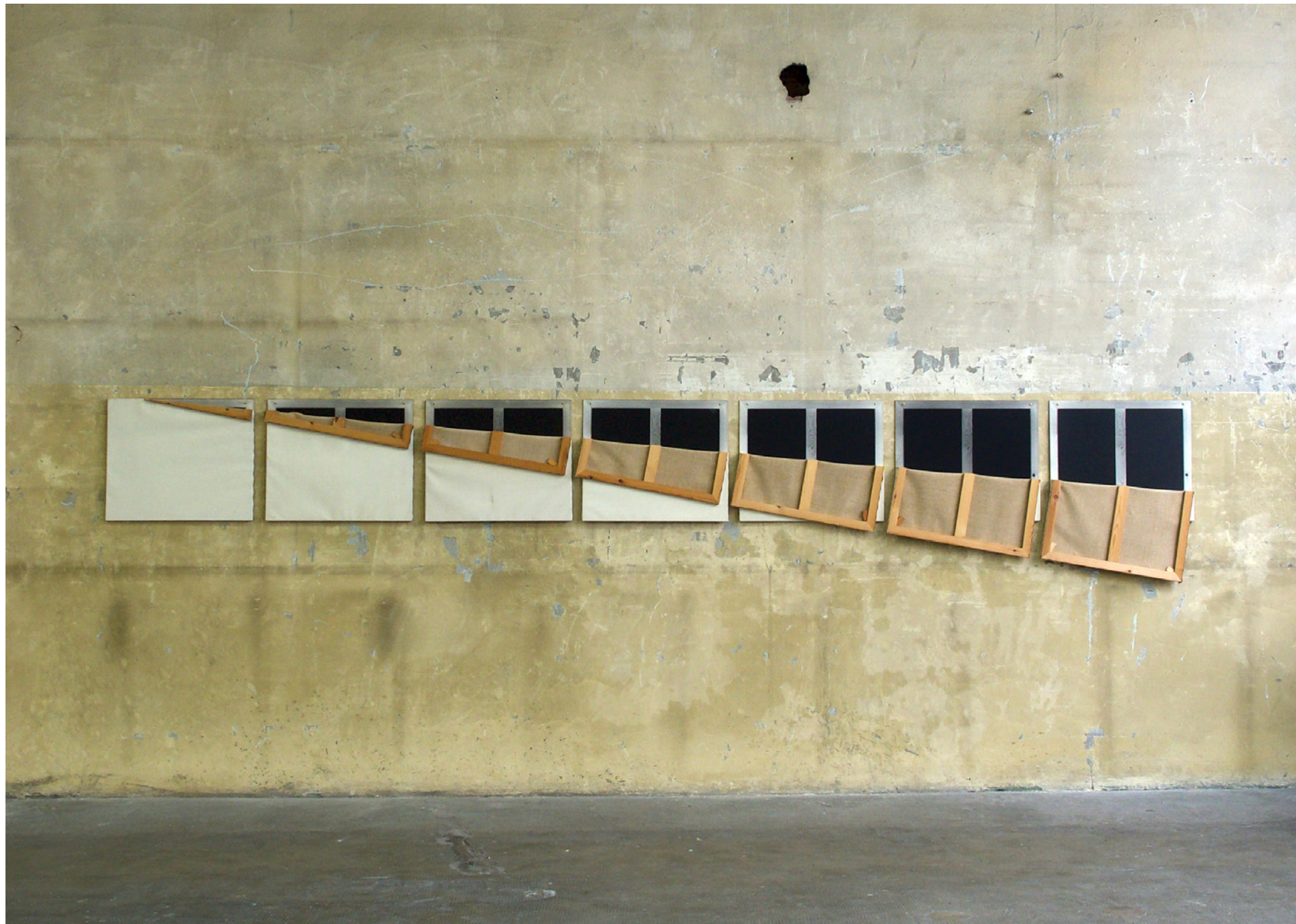
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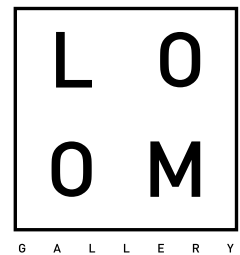
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