



Dawn Raid

Date

1988

Primary Maker

Morris, Locky

Medium

Cardboard, masking tape, household gloss/auto paint.

Description

I regard this as one of my early seminal pieces. Exhibited widely, including the British Art Show at the Hayward Gallery 1990. Although it is made of 'the simplest of materials' it is still in good condition. Locky Morris who was born and brought up in Derry and was one of the artists that responded in his work to the architecture of defence, surveillance and fortification in Derry from the early 80s onwards. His early works were about surveillance in his native city of Derry. He went on to explore in subsequent sculptural works related and

contentious issues such as confrontation, suppression, containment and the control and political engineering of movement and presence. "Town, Country and People" from 1986 objectify the routine experience of military surveillance by helicopters which daily hovered over 'active' sections of a town such as Derry. It is self sufficient both as an object and an encapsulation of this aerial drama, sucking up the town's portable secrets. Of course, the most common the most common military unit of defence/resistance was the police grey land rover as it toured the streets of towns and cities in the North. In a densely packed circulating group as in Dawn Raid (1988) these police vehicles surround a house and take on a menacing power of address. The exaggeration given to this formal display of power by the artist however, is both serious and humorous. Works like these, made of the simplest of materials such as cardboard, masking tape and paint, which adds to their sense of the ridiculous, explore the complexity of meanings and counter meanings in the local situation. But at the same time their economy of means carries a charge of recognition beyond the local resonances.

Dimensions

Approx. 95 × 195 × 16 cm