

POSTMASTERS

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ARTFORUM

New York

Wolfgang Staehle

POSTMASTERS

54 Franklin Street

September 6, 2001–October 6, 2001

Of any gallery show in New York, the current exhibition of Wolfgang Staehle, pioneering Internet artist and director of the well-known website The Thing, is, in many ways, the most connected to the events of September 11. His show includes webcasts of three sites: the television tower in Berlin (formerly of East Berlin), the Benedictine monastery in Comburg, Germany, and a view of the skyline of lower Manhattan. Staehle's works were intended as explorations of how time and space are compressed by technology, but he never could have guessed to what extent his point would be driven home when hijacked airline passengers used cell phones to call home and workers in London heard their colleagues panicking in New York via "squawk box." The ways in which time and space have been reconfigured by recent technology, both in life and impending death, were made apparent on that day, and Staehle, who chose what seemed like static, stable monuments for his show, suddenly became the epicenter of the debate that will not be long in coming about the relation of digital broadcast technology to the events it presumably records. Staehle's transmission, which previously registered changes of light and movement, has now become among the first art objects to document the new, sadly altered skyline of lower Manhattan.



Untitled, 2001.

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