

TEMPORARY SERVICES

Guide to Re-Creating

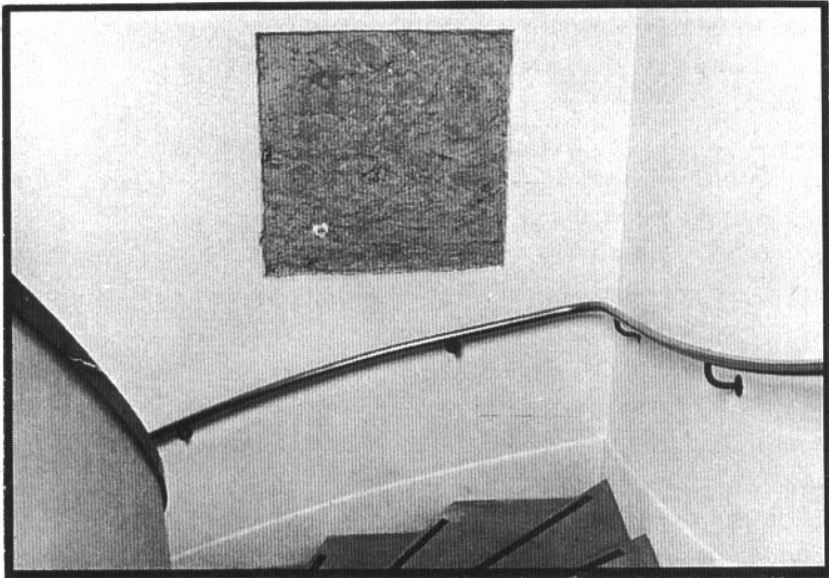
A 36" x 36" REMOVAL TO THE LATHING OR SUPPORT WALL OF PLASTER OR WALLBOARD FROM A WALL

by Lawrence Weiner

This is a wonderfully raw and direct work by Lawrence Weiner. It was first exhibited in New York in 1968 but has since been re-created in other locations. It is a work that is quickly fabricated and can be infinitely repeated with the same effect. A gesture like this at one point was in radical opposition to big expressionistic paintings and precious art works, but like those works it was easily commodified. Re-creating this work ignores the privileges of its ownership, rendering it accessible to anyone willing to re-make it. Re-creating the work also democratizes access to the work taking it out of a single person's or institution's control.

By re-creating Weiner's work based on the instructions given in this guide, you don't have to wait for a museum or gallery to present it in the city where you live. You also get a direct experience of the work that wouldn't have been possible otherwise.

We feel that works like Weiner's A 36" x 36" REMOVAL TO THE LATHING OR SUPPORT WALL OF PLASTER OR WALLBOARD FROM A WALL are important and offer strong visual experiences that need to be regularly available. Gaining access to important historical works like this one in a direct manner is crucial for understanding developments and ways of thinking within art. This work was re-created several times for different exhibitions with no one version of it being more important than any other was. We believe that works re-created accurately using our guide should be accorded a similar weight.



Top Illustration:

A 36" x 36" REMOVAL TO THE LATHING OR SUPPORT WALL OF PLASTER OR WALL-BOARD FROM A WALL (1968) The Siegelaub Collection and Archives. Installation views of this work in venues for the traveling exhibition, "The Presence of Absence," organized by Nina Felshin for Independent Curators Incorporated (1989-90). Photos property of The Seth Siegelaub Collection and Archives.

Bottom Illustration:

A 36" x 36" REMOVAL TO THE LATHING OR SUPPORT WALL OF PLASTER OR WALL-BOARD FROM A WALL (1968) as fabricated in another location. Photo source: Works & Reconstructions, Lawrence Weiner, Kunsthalle, Bern, 1983.

Details about Materials and Execution

Materials: You may need a drill, drill bit, sharp razor blade or cutting tool, chisel or drywall saw, and long ruler and/or T-square, level, measuring tape, text (optional), and a pencil.

Suggested Process: Select a wall where you would like to re-create Lawrence Weiner's work that is open enough for a 36" x 36" hole. Pictured are fabrications with and without text. Next, select the location of one of the lower corners of the square. Determine the proper placement. Once you have decided where the corner will go measure out the other lower corner exactly 36 inches away. Measure the height of the first hole and put the second hole at exactly the same distance from the floor. Use the pencil and the ruler or T-square to draw a slight line connecting both holes. Now it is time for an upper corner. Measure exactly 36 inches up the wall from the lower corner. Use the T-square to make sure that a perpendicular angle is created when you draw a line between the bottom corner and the top corner. Use the level again to make sure that you are doing things correctly. Once you have three corners mapped out locate the fourth from both the upper corner and the correlating lower corner. The last corner should lie at exactly 36 inches from both corners. Use the level and T-square to check your work. It is a good idea to now go over each line with a cutting tool to score a path for your saw. This should help to make the cuts cleaner, but note that different fabrications exhibit different degrees of finesse (compare illustrations).

Now you are ready to drill holes in all four corners. Drill a hole that is large enough to allow you to insert your drywall saw into the wall. Make the holes just inside the lines that form the corners. Once you have the holes drilled begin to slowly saw out the drywall. Be careful of electrical wiring, wooden boards, or other supporting structures.

After removing the lathing or support wall of plasterboard or wall-board, and cleaning up the lines a little, all you need to do is put up the lettering (if you choose to incorporate this element in the work). Do it in the manner that the photograph shows.

1. THE ARTIST MAY CONSTRUCT THE WORK
2. THE WORK MAY BE FABRICATED
3. THE WORK NEED NOT TO BE BUILT

LAWRENCE WEINER

Recommended Reading:

Works & Reconstructions, Lawrence Weiner, Kunsthalle, Bern, 1983.

Reconsidering the Object of Art: 1965-1975, Ann Goldstein and Anne Rorimer, Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles, The

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