



# The Press Office @ DEAN CLOUGH

## **Friedhard Kiekeben: Transit**

Crossley Gallery, Dean Clough: October 8th 2005 to January 15th 2006

*"I produce and exhibit site specific digital installation pieces, etched metal objects and other works dealing with the fundamental issues of human perception..."* – Friedhard Kiekeben

Born in Germany in 1963, and widely exhibited across the UK, Germany and Switzerland (as well as in the USA), Friedhard Kiekeben's academic grounding won't prepare the unsuspecting for the scale and impact of his vertiginous 'installations' at the Crossley Gallery in Dean Clough.

Pride of display goes to the large, violet and silver etched aluminium plaque 'Shatter-Ice' (2003), which could almost be taken as a visually baffling piece of 'Op Art'. However, the slightly muted colours point to a different preoccupation; as does an observation made by author and theorist Charles Esche in 1995 that – even while he was at the RCA (1991/3) – Kiekeben was "...concerned with the removal of illusionistic tricks while maintaining the possibility of depth, both physically and intellectually".

Kiekeben laid his own claim to the word 'Matrix' at least five years before the 1999 cult film of the same name presented the notion of a world 'constructed' out of digital information. That said, the film's themes are not *too* far from Kiekeben's preoccupations: which are suggested by his phrase 'the aesthetics of information'.

Although informed by minimalism, Kiekeben's work has typically explored notions of what was 'original' – for example by simultaneously exhibiting prints and the printing plates from which they came (a juxtaposition that is

The Press Office  
Dean Clough  
Halifax HX3 5AX  
West Yorkshire

01422 254054 Telephone  
01422 322527 Answerphone  
07976 296178 Mobile

01422 322518 Fax

deancloughpr@btconnect.com email



Friedhard Kiekeben: Transit (1959)

For general enquiries regarding  
Dean Clough please telephone  
01422 250250

The Dean Clough website is at  
[www.deanclough.com](http://www.deanclough.com)

contd. overleaf



*'Transit': continued from overleaf*

echoed in another major piece in this Kiekeben 'mini-retrospective', namely 'Transit' 1993).

His involvement with computers (with their almost infinite capacity to feed upon their own material) has enabled Kiekeben to increasingly muddy the notion of what constitutes an 'original' piece of information: suggesting (perhaps!) that information is generated by principles to be found in the 'matrix' between the artist, the viewer and the work.

*"The onlooker must therefore look for the 'absolute' not in the work, but in his or her interpretation of it – a pleasurable process which continually varies with time, light, mood and opportunity"* concluded Charles Esche.

For those who haven't followed a word of the above, Esche's remark at least points to the fact that (unlike more avowedly 'conceptual' artists) Kiekeben strives to use a visual language. There is great skill, and an intuitive satisfaction to be had from his work: be it from the formal, yet eccentric, series of folded steel plates; or the curiously domestic series of 'tin flowers'.

Friedhard Kiekeben now lives in Chester, where he is Senior Lecturer at The University of Chester, and a visiting professor at RIT, New York. He has had some 13 one-man shows, won the First Media Art Prize, Deutsche Telekom in 1997, and is represented by collections in Germany, London and New York.

Entry to the Dean Clough Galleries is free and they are open from 10.00am to 5.00pm. The gallery operates an interest-free loan scheme that is supported by the Arts Council.

**More details and jpgs available from Vic Allen or David Nesbitt on 01422 322527 or via [pressoffice@deanclough.com](mailto:pressoffice@deanclough.com)**