

Bending Time

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4th - 19th August 2018
Artist in Residence at The Taubenturm
Diessen am Ammersee, Germany



Bending Time, Time Upside Down, acrylic resin, fiberglass, newspaper, wood and metal, 108cm H x 338cm W x 53cm D. fig. 4

Bending Time is a series of three site-specific works made during my residence at The Taubenturm in Diessen am Ammersee.

With the Bending Time series, my aim is to consider the status of the arch in relation to time and temporality, as well as to highlight the status of the structure as a portal through which human and commercial traffic have flowed for more than three centuries. Experiencing the arch for the first time, I noticed that the arch cast a shadow of a completed circle on the ground (fig. 1). My practice has long focussed on the circle, or the loop as a fundamental geometric form. The circle, for me, evokes both flows of exchange between people, cultures, and objects, but also the sense of time as a cyclical rather than linear concept. Marx's famous maxim, that history repeats itself first as tragedy, then as farce, for me, encapsulates the ways in which notions of temporality and human endeavour intersect, and the shadow of the Taubenturm Arch, for me represents another nexus in this dynamic, a site where circles and cycles cross through each other and leave traces of themselves.

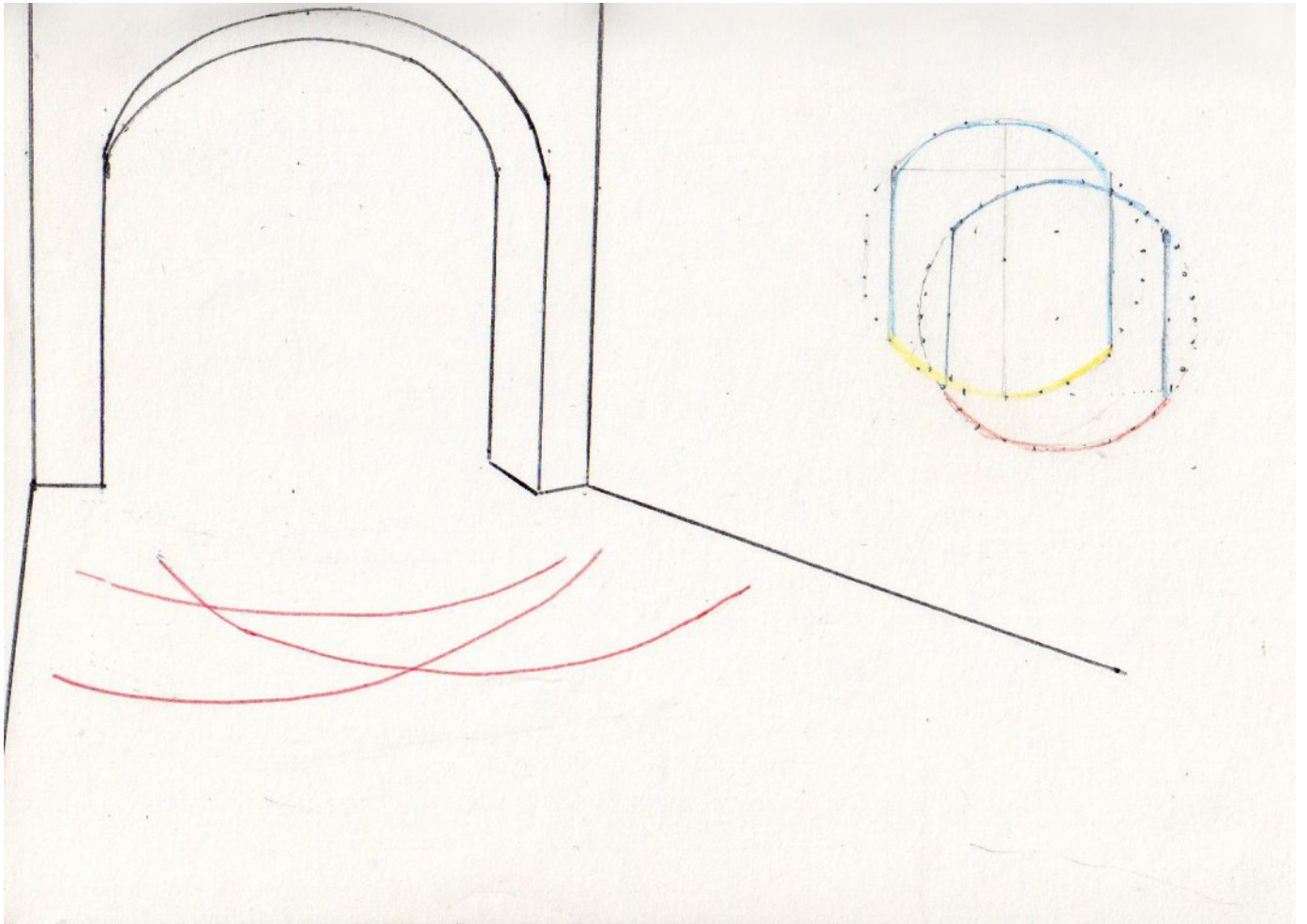
As Bending Time began in my mind with this image of the arch's shadow forming a completed circle, the first work from the series focuses on the interaction of the arch and the sun. In it, I have produced a series of drawings of the arch and its shadow from different points in the day, tracing the evolution of the circles the sun's rays produce. (fig. 2)

The second work that I have produced as part of Bending Time considers the ways in which the loops and circles are produced and metaphorised in cultural contexts. As people, objects and memories circulate as commodities, infinitely exchanged, and, thus, infinitely changed, they confront the limits of the physical world, the laws of motion, and of thermodynamics. To represent this trajectory, I have sought to bring the arch and its human context into more direct contact. I have spent a period of the residency exploring the Diessen am Ammersee area for traces of human activity, detritus that tells the story of human moments of exchange. I have aimed to find an object that could be fitted between the walls of the small arch in the gallery space to make a convex form, producing a full circle from that aftermath of a completed cycle of exchange. (fig. 3)

The final work of Bending Time is entitled "Time Upside Down". This work consists of a replica of the Taubenturm arch. The construction is placed upside down in the gallery space, existing as a kind of shadow of the original. The work could be understood as a location but also a portal through to the history of the arch itself, a history where the past may be contemplated, repeated or reinvented. (fig 4)



fig. 1



Bending Time series, chalk line drawing on asphalt

fig. 2



fig. 3



Detail of the process to make the replica of the arch of Taubenturm

fig. 4

