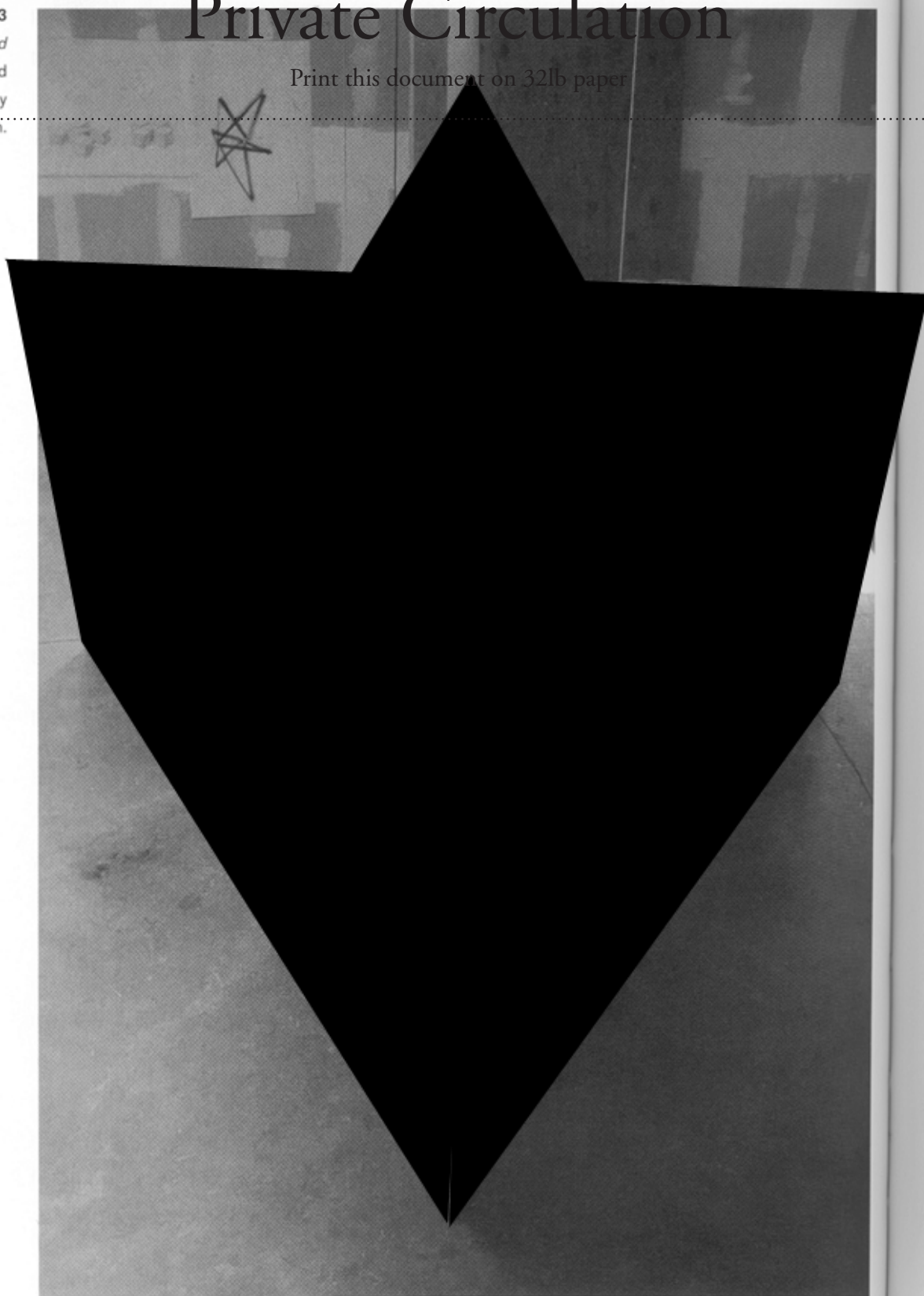


Private Circulation

Print this document on 32lb paper

fig. 3.33

...l for a Pit and Suspended
ber, 1979. Fiberglass and
60 × 120 × 24. Courtesy
Bruce Nauman.



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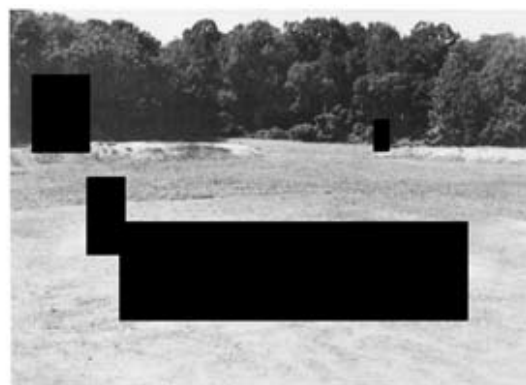
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██████████ in the Expanded Field

Toward the center of the field there is a slight mound, a swelling in the earth, which is the only warning given for the presence of ██████████. Closer to it, the large square face of the pit can be seen, as can the ends of the ladder that is needed to descend into the ██████████ itself is thus entirely below grade: half ██████████ half ██████████ the boundary between outside and in, a delicate

is of course ██████████ or, more precisely ██████████. Over the last ten years rather surprising things have come to be called ██████████ narrow ██████████ with ██████████ at the ends; large ██████████ documenting country hikes ██████████ placed at strange angles in ordinary ██████████ temporary ██████████ cut into the ██████████. Nothing, it would seem, could possibly give to such a motley of effort the right to lay claim to whatever one might mean by the category of ██████████. Unless, that is, the category can be made to become almost infinitely malleable.

The critical operations that have accompanied postwar American ██████████ have largely worked in the service of this manipulation. In the hands of this ██████████ like ██████████ have been kneaded and stretched and twisted in an extraordinary demonstration of elasticity, a display of the way a ██████████ can be extended to include just about anything. And though this pulling and stretching of a term such as ██████████ is overtly performed in the name of ██████████ its covert message is that of ██████████. The new is made comfortable by being made familiar, since it is seen as having gradually evolved from the ██████████ of the past. ██████████ works on the new and different to diminish newness and mitigate difference. It makes a place for change in our experience by evoking the model of evolution, so that the man who now is can be accepted as being different from the child he once was, by simultaneously being seen—through the unseizable action of the telos—as the same. And we are comforted by this perception of sameness, this strategy for reducing anything foreign in either time or space, to what we already know and are.



32

OCTOBER

No sooner had ██████████ appeared on the horizon of the ██████████ of the 1960s, than ██████████ began to construct a ██████████ for ██████████ a set of ██████████ who could legitimize and thereby authenticate the ██████████. ██████████ could be called in to testify. Never mind that the ██████████ of the one had nothing to do with, was in fact the exact opposite of, the ██████████ of the other. Never mind that ██████████ was the sign of ██████████, while ██████████ spoke the hip ██████████. It did not matter that ██████████ were intended as ██████████ of the immutable logic and coherence of ██████████ while their seeming counterparts in ██████████ were demonstrably contingent—denoting a universe held together not by ██████████ but by ██████████ or ██████████. The rage to ██████████ simply swept these differences aside.



██████████ in the Expanded Field

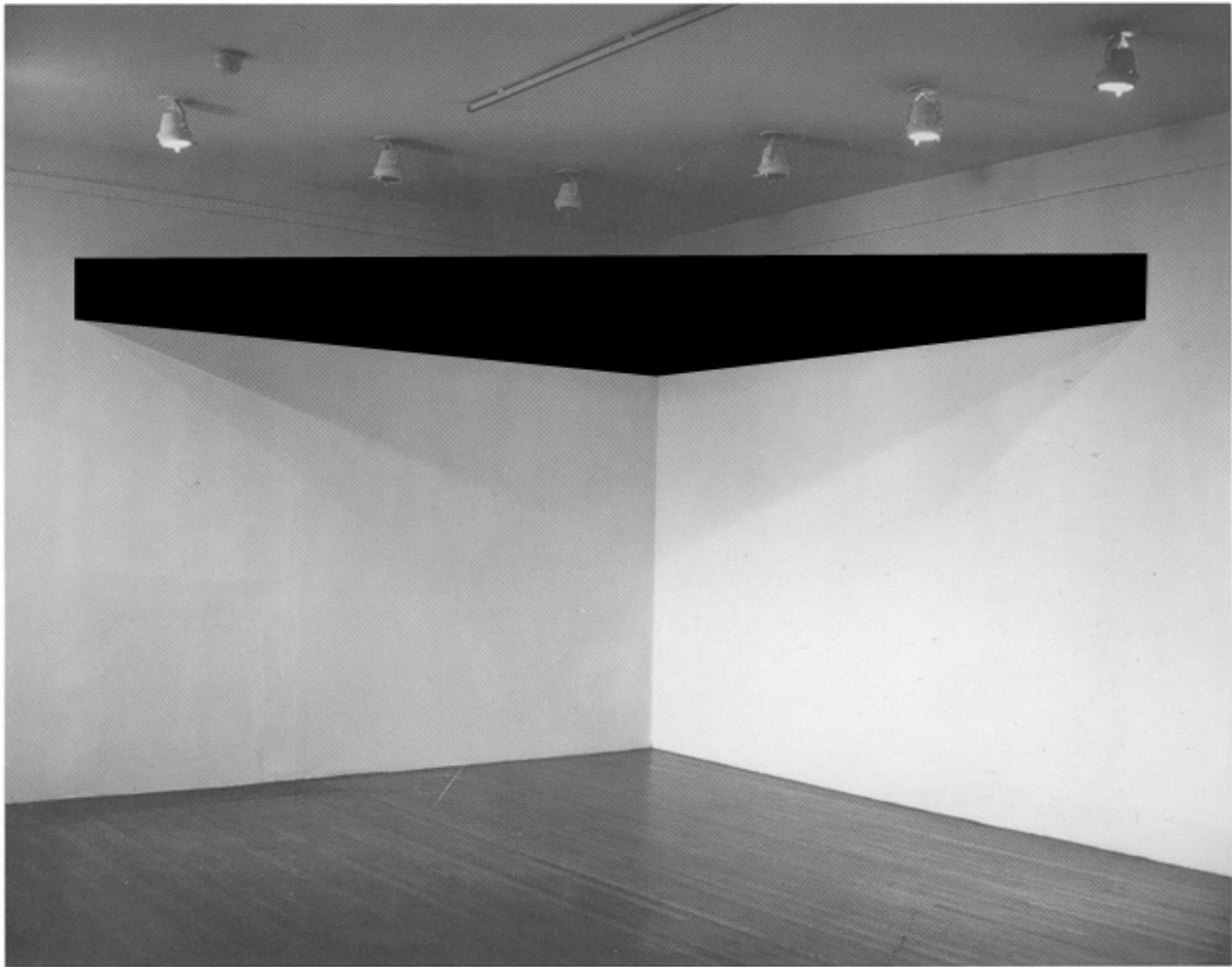
33

Of course, with the passing of time these sweeping operations got a little harder to perform. As the 1960s began to lengthen into the 1970s and ██████████ began to be ██████████ on the floor, or ██████████ rolled into the ██████████ or ██████████ from ██████████, or ██████████ surrounded by ██████████, the word ██████████ became harder to pronounce—but not really that much harder. The ██████████ simply performed a more extended sleight-of-hand and began to construct his genealogies out of the data of millennia rather than decades. ██████████ the ██████████ the ██████████ ██████████—anything at all could be hauled into court to bear witness to this ██████████ connection to ██████████ and thereby to legitimize its status as ██████████. Of course ██████████ and the ██████████ were just exactly not ██████████ and so their role as ██████████ precedent becomes somewhat suspect in this particular demonstration. But never mind. The trick can still be done by calling upon a variety of ██████████ from the earlier part of the century ██████████'s ██████████ will do—to mediate between extreme past and present.

But in doing all of this, the very term we had thought we were saving—██████████—has begun to be somewhat obscured. We had thought to use a universal category to authenticate a group of particulars, but the category has now been forced to cover such a heterogeneity that it is, itself, in danger of collapsing. And so we stare at the ██████████ and think we both do and don't know what ██████████ is.

Yet I would submit that we know very well what ██████████ is. And one of the things we know is that it is a historically bounded category and not a universal one. As is true of any other convention, ██████████ has its own internal logic, its own set of rules, which, though they can be applied to a variety of situations, are not themselves open to very much change. The logic of ██████████ it would seem, is inseparable from the logic of the ██████████. By virtue of this logic is a ██████████. It sits in a particular place and ██████████ the meaning or use of that place. The ██████████ set in the center of the ██████████ to represent by its ██████████ the relationship between ██████████ and ██████████ placed at the foot of the ██████████ connecting the ██████████ to the ██████████ is another such ██████████ a marker at a particular ██████████ for a specific meaning/event. Because they thus function in relation to the logic of ██████████ and ██████████ are normally ██████████ and ██████████, then ██████████ an important part of the ██████████ since they mediate between actual ██████████ and ██████████. There is nothing very mysterious about this logic, understood and inhabited, it was the source of a tremendous production of ██████████ during centuries of ██████████.

But the convention is not immutable and there came a time when the logic began to fail. Late in the ██████████ we witnessed the fading of the logic of



9.11 Chris Burden, *White Light/White Heat*, Feb.-March 1975. (Courtesy of Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, New York; photo: eeva-inkeri.)

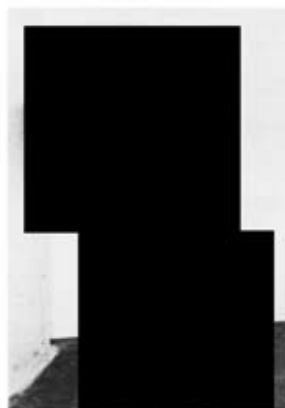
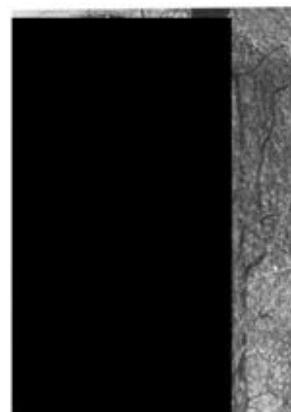
the [redacted]. It happened rather gradually. But two cases come to mind, both bearing the marks of their own transitional status. [redacted] and his [redacted] were both conceived as [redacted]. The first were [redacted] as the [redacted] the second was [redacted].

The failure of these two [redacted] as [redacted] is signaled not only by the fact that multiple versions can be found in a variety of [redacted] in various countries, while no version exists on the [redacted]—both [redacted] having eventually collapsed. Their failure is also encoded onto the very [redacted] the [redacted] to the point where they [redacted] with such a degree of subjectivity that not even [redacted] believed (as letters by him attest) that [redacted] would ever be accepted.

With these two [redacted] I would say, one crosses the threshold of the logic of the [redacted] entering the space of what could be called its negative condition—a kind of [redacted] or [redacted] an absolute [redacted]. Which is to say one enters [redacted] since it is the [redacted] period of [redacted] production that operates in relation to this loss of [redacted] producing the [redacted] as [redacted] the [redacted] as pure [redacted] functionally placeless and largely [redacted].

It is these two characteristics of [redacted] that declare its status, and therefore its meaning and function, as essentially nomadic. Through its fetishization of the [redacted] the [redacted] reaches downward to absorb the [redacted] into itself and away from actual [redacted] and through the [redacted] of its own [redacted] or the process of its construction, the [redacted] depicts its own [redacted] is an extraordinary instance of the way this happens. The [redacted] becomes, in a [redacted] like the [redacted] the [redacted] of the [redacted] part of [redacted] in the [redacted] and [redacted] the [redacted] is all [redacted] while in [redacted] the [redacted] is in a reciprocal relation to its [redacted]. The [redacted] is thus defined as essentially transportable, the [redacted] of the [redacted] integrated into the very [redacted]. And [redacted]'s interest in [redacted] parts of the [redacted] as fragments that tend toward radical [redacted] also testifies to a loss of [redacted] in this case the [redacted] of the rest of the [redacted] that would give to one of the [redacted] a home.

In being the negative condition of the [redacted] [redacted] had a kind of idealist space to explore, a domain cut off from the project of temporal and spatial [redacted] a vein that was rich and new and could for a while be profitably mined. But it was a limited vein and, having been opened in the early part of the century, it began by about 1950 to be exhausted. It began, that is, to be experienced more and more as pure negativity. At this point [redacted] appeared as a kind of black hole in the space of consciousness, something whose positive content was increasingly difficult to define, something that was possible to locate only in terms of what it was not. [redacted] is what you bump into when



you back up to see a [redacted]. [redacted] said in the fifties. But it would probably be more accurate to say of [redacted] that one found in the early sixties that [redacted] had entered a categorical no-man's-land: it was what was on or in front of a [redacted] that was not the [redacted], or what was in the [redacted] that was not the [redacted].

The purest examples that come to mind from the early 1960s are both [redacted]. One is the [redacted] in 1961 in the [redacted] whose status as [redacted] reduces almost completely to the simple determination that it is what is in the [redacted] that is not really the [redacted] the other is the [redacted] of the [redacted] which are distinct from the [redacted] only because, though [redacted] with [redacted] they are not in fact part of the [redacted].

In this sense [redacted] had entered the full condition of its inverse logic and had become pure negativity: the combination of exclusions. [redacted] it could be said, had ceased being a positivity, and was now the category that resulted from the addition of the [redacted] to the [redacted]. Diagrammatically expressed, the limit of the [redacted] the addition of the [redacted] looks like this:

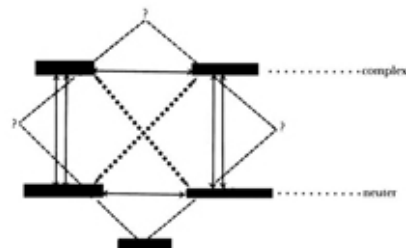


Now, if [redacted] itself had become a kind of ontological absence, the combination of exclusions, the sum of the [redacted] that does not mean that the terms themselves from which it was [redacted]—the [redacted] and the [redacted]

[redacted] in the Expanded Field

37

[redacted]—did not have a certain interest. This is because these terms express a strict opposition between the [redacted] and the not [redacted], the [redacted] and the [redacted], between which the production of [redacted] appeared to be suspended. And what began to happen in the [redacted] of one [redacted] after another, beginning at the end of the 1960s, is that attention began to focus on the outer limits of those terms of exclusion. For, if those terms are the expression of a logical opposition stated as a pair of negatives, they can be transformed by a simple inversion into the same polar opposites but expressed positively. That is, the [redacted] is, according to the logic of a certain kind of expansion, just another way of expressing the term [redacted] and the [redacted] is, simply, [redacted]. The expansion to which I am referring is called a [redacted] when employed mathematically and has various other designations, among them the [redacted] when used [redacted] involved in [redacted]. By means of this logical expansion a set of binaries is transformed into a quaternary field which both mirrors the original opposition and at the same time opens it. It becomes a logically expanded field which looks like this:



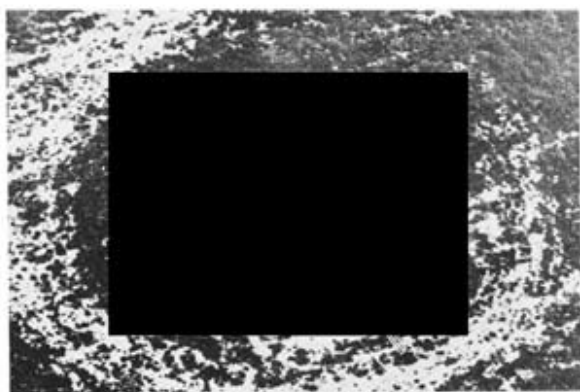
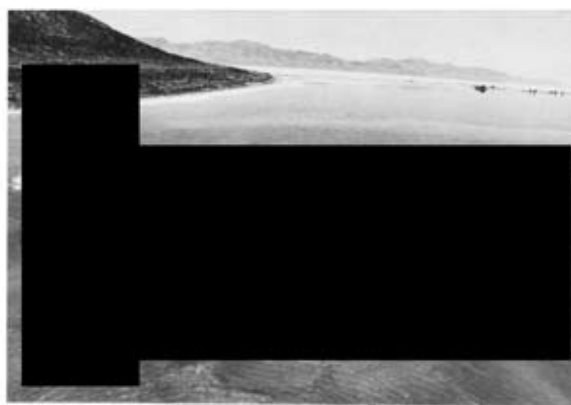
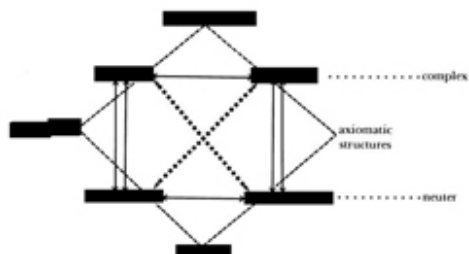
* The dimensions of this structure may be analyzed as follows: 1) there are two relationships of pure contradiction which are termed axes (and further differentiated into the complex axis and the reducer axis) and are designated by the solid arrows (see diagram); 2) there are two relationships of contradiction, expressed as involution, which are called schemas and are designated by the double arrows; and 3) there are two relationships of implication which are called deices and are designated by the broken arrows.

For a discussion of the

[redacted] 80-100.

Another way of saying this is that even though [redacted] may be reduced to what is in the [redacted] the neuter term of the [redacted] plus the [redacted] there is no reason not to imagine an opposite term—one that would be both [redacted] and [redacted]—which within this schema is called the *complex*. But to think the complex is to admit into the realm of [redacted] two terms that had formerly been prohibited from it: [redacted] and [redacted]—terms that could function to define the [redacted] (as they had begun to do in [redacted] only in their negative or neuter condition. Because it was ideologically prohibited, the complex had remained excluded from what might be called the closure of [redacted]. Our [redacted] had not before been able to think the complex, although other [redacted] have thought this term with great ease. [redacted] and [redacted] are both [redacted] and [redacted] are both [redacted] and [redacted] the [redacted] and [redacted] were all in this sense the unquestioned occupants of the complex. Which is not to say that they were an early, or a degenerate, or a variant form of [redacted]. They were part of a [redacted] or [redacted] in which [redacted] was simply another part—not somehow, as our [redacted] would have it, the same. Their purpose and pleasure is exactly that they are opposite and different.

The expanded field is thus generated by problematizing the set of oppositions between which the [redacted] category [redacted] is suspended. And once this has happened, once one is able to think one's way into this expansion, there are—logically—three other categories that one can envision, all of them a condition of the field itself, and none of them assimilable to [redacted]. Because as we can see, [redacted] is no longer the privileged middle term between two things that it isn't. [redacted] is rather only one term on the periphery of a field in which there are other, differently structured possibilities. And one has thereby gained the "permission" to think these other forms. So our diagram is filled in as follows:



It seems fairly clear that this permission (or pressure) to think the expanded field was felt by a number of [redacted] at about the same time, roughly between the years 1968 and 1970. For, one after another [redacted] [redacted] had entered a situation the logical conditions of which can no longer be described as [redacted]. In order to name this historical rupture and the structural transformation of the [redacted] field that characterizes it, one must have recourse to another term. The one already in use in other areas of [redacted]. There seems no reason not to use it.

But whatever term one uses, the evidence is already in. By 1970, with the [redacted] at [redacted] in Ohio, [redacted] had begun to occupy the complex axis, which for ease of reference I am calling [redacted].

In 1971 with the [redacted] in [redacted] and [redacted] in Holland, [redacted] had joined him. Since that time, many other [redacted] in [redacted] have operated within this new set of possibilities.

Similarly, the possible combination of [redacted] and not [redacted] began to be explored in the late 1960s. The term [redacted] is used to identify [redacted] like [redacted] (1970) and [redacted] (1969), as it also describes some of the [redacted] in the seventies.

[redacted] and many others. But in addition to actual [redacted] this term also refers to other forms of [redacted].

These might operate through the application of impermanence [redacted] or [redacted].

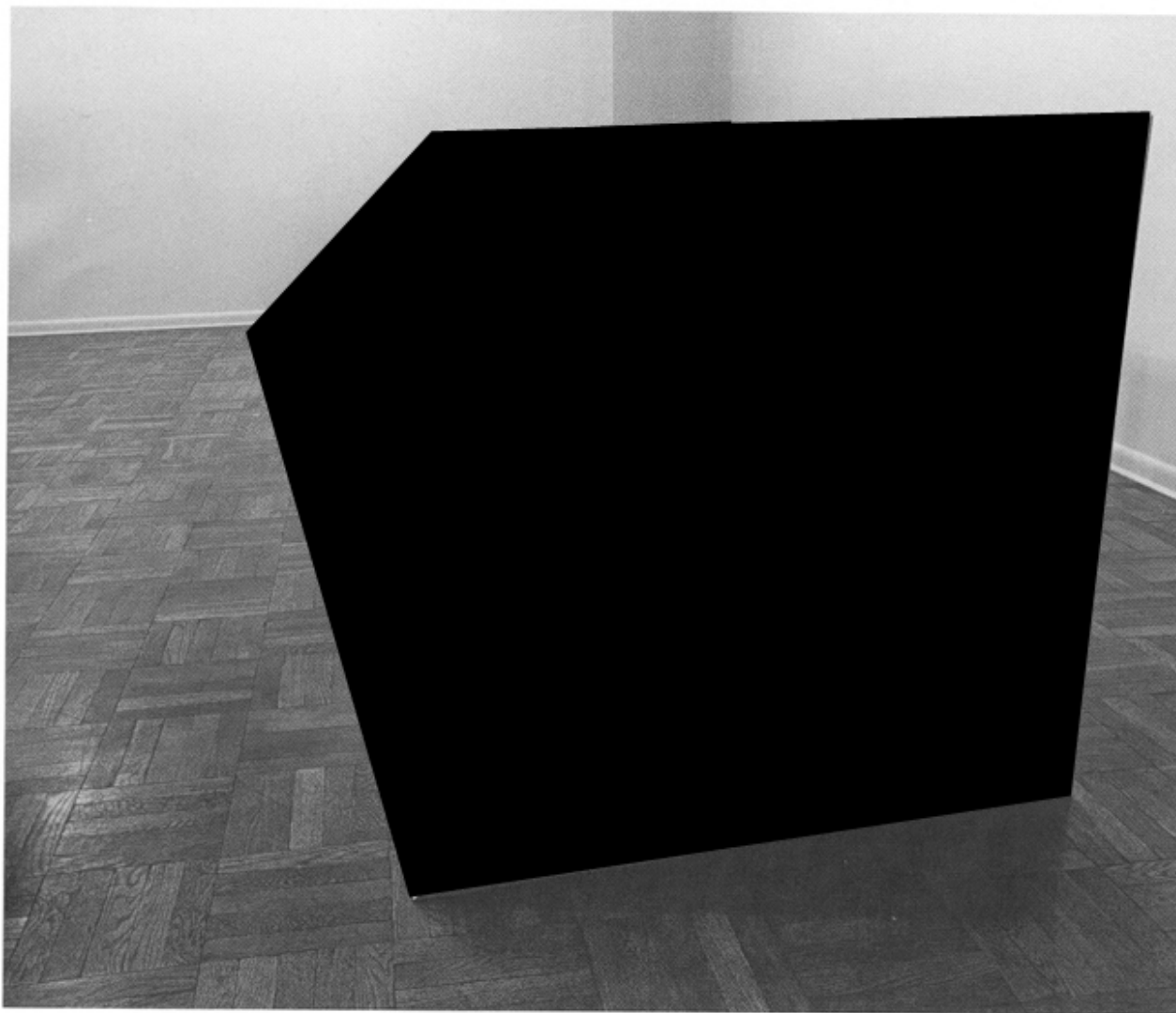
For example—or through the use of [redacted] or [redacted].

[redacted] were probably the first widely known instances of this, but since then the [redacted] of [redacted] and [redacted] has focused on the [redacted] of [redacted] [redacted] might be said to be an [redacted] instance of [redacted].

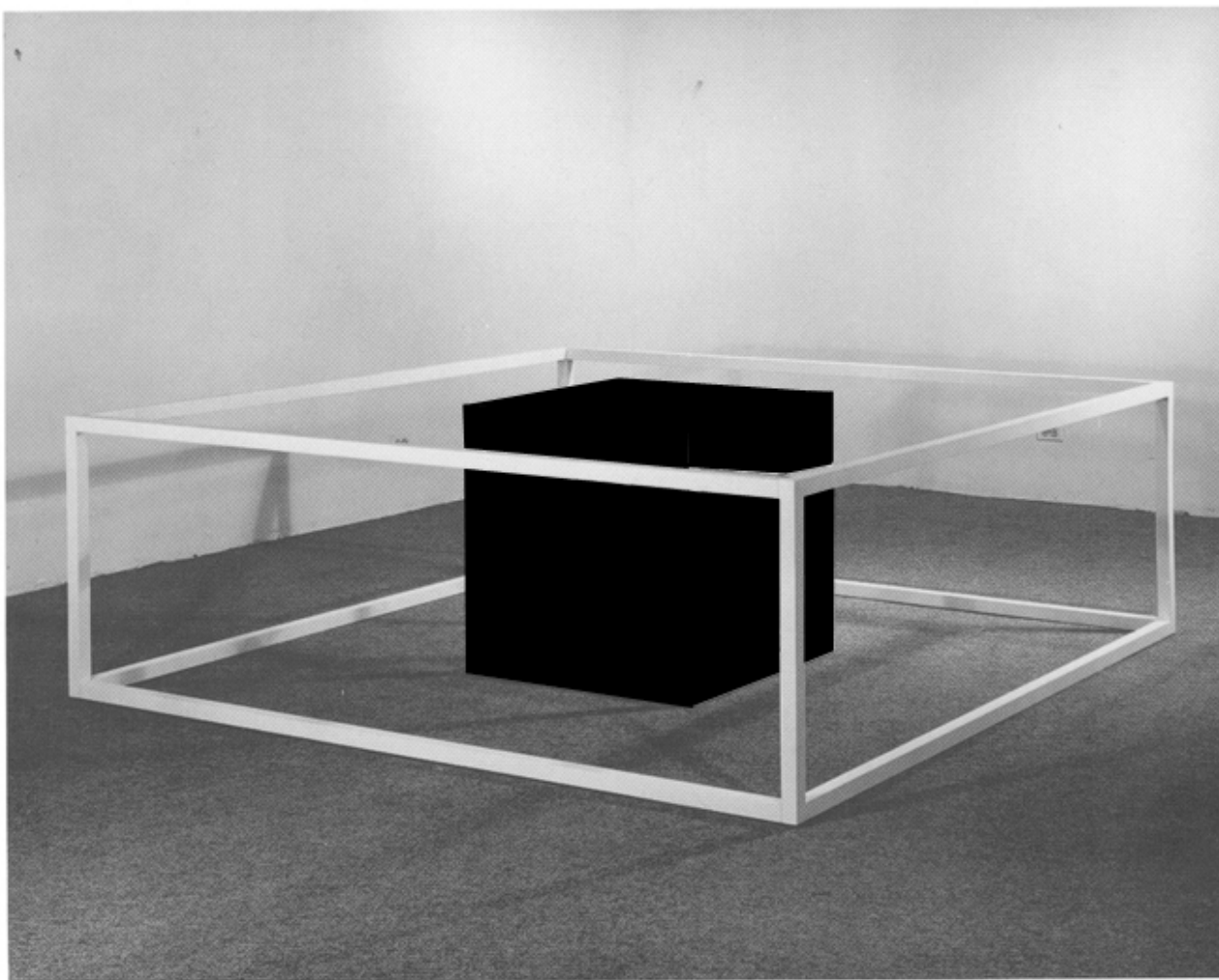
The first [redacted] to explore the possibilities of [redacted] plus not [redacted] were [redacted].

In every case of these *axiomatic structures*, there is some kind of intervention into the [redacted] of [redacted] sometimes through partial [redacted] sometimes through [redacted] or as in the recent works of [redacted] through the use of [redacted]. As was true of the category of the [redacted] [redacted] can be used for this purpose; I am thinking here of the [redacted] by [redacted]. But whatever the [redacted] employed, the possibility explored in this category is a process of [redacted] [redacted] the abstract conditions of [redacted] onto the reality of a [redacted].

The expanded field which characterizes this domain of [redacted] possesses two features that are already implicit in the above description. One of these concerns the practice of individual [redacted] the other has to do with the



3.5 Robert Morris, *Untitled*, 1967. (Courtesy of Artforum.)



3.4 Sol Lewitt, *Untitled*, 1966. (Courtesy of Artforum; photo: John D. Schiff.)

fig. 3.31

Yellow Room (Triangular), 1973.
Wallboard, plywood, yellow fluorescent
lights, dimensions variable. Courtesy
Sperone Westwater Gallery, New York.



question of [redacted]. At both these points the bounded conditions of [redacted] have suffered a logically determined rupture.

With regard to individual [redacted] it is easy to see that many of the [redacted] in question have found themselves [redacted] successively, [redacted] within the expanded field. And though the [redacted] suggests that this continual relocation of one's energies is entirely logical, [redacted] still in the thrall of a [redacted] has been largely suspicious of such [redacted] calling it eclectic. This suspicion of a [redacted] that moves continually and erratically beyond the domain of [redacted] obviously derives from the [redacted] demand for the purity and separateness of the various [redacted] (and thus the necessary specialization of a [redacted] within a given [redacted]). But what appears as eclectic from one point of view can be seen as rigorously logical from another. For, within the situation of [redacted] practice is not defined in relation to a given [redacted]—but rather in relation to the logical operations on a set of terms, for which any [redacted]—[redacted] v. [redacted]—or [redacted] itself—might be used.

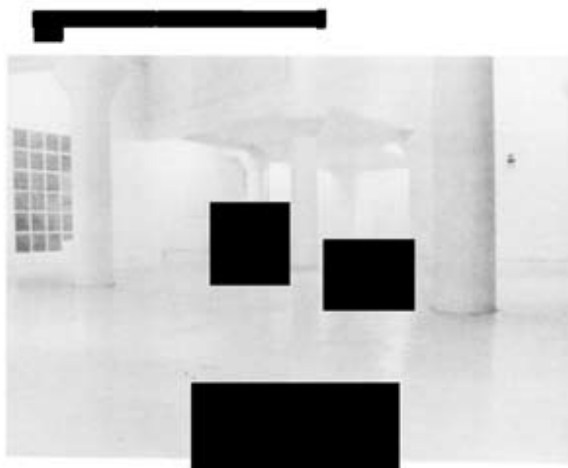
Thus the field provides both for an expanded but finite set of related positions for a given [redacted] to occupy and explore, and for an organization of [redacted] that is not



dictated by the conditions of a particular [redacted]. From the structure laid out above, it is obvious that the logic of the space of [redacted] is no longer organized around the definition of a given [redacted] on the grounds of [redacted] or, for that matter, the [redacted] of [redacted]. It is organized instead through the universe of terms that are felt to be in opposition within a [redacted] situation. (The [redacted] would obviously involve a similar expansion around a different set of terms from the pair [redacted]—a set that would probably turn on the opposition [redacted] [redacted].) It follows, then, that within any one of the positions generated by the given [redacted] many different [redacted] might be employed. It follows as well that any single [redacted] might occupy, successively, any one of the positions. And it also seems the case that within the limited position of [redacted] itself the organization and content of much of the strongest work will reflect the condition of the logical [redacted]. I am thinking here of the [redacted] of [redacted] of which, though it positions itself in the neuter term, is involved in the [redacted] of [redacted] within relatively vast fields [redacted] of [redacted]. (These considerations apply, obviously, to other [redacted] as well [redacted] for example, of [redacted] and [redacted].)



I have been insisting that the expanded field of [redacted] occurs at a specific moment in the recent [redacted]. It is a historical event with a determinant structure. It seems to me extremely important to map that structure and that is what I have begun to do here. But clearly, since this is a matter of history, it is also important to explore a deeper set of questions which pertain to something more than [redacted] and involve instead the problem of explanation. These address the root cause—the conditions of possibility—that brought about the shift into [redacted] as they also address the [redacted] determinants of the opposition through which a given field is structured. This is obviously a different approach to thinking about the history of [redacted] from that of [redacted] constructions of elaborate genealogical trees. It presupposes the acceptance of definitive ruptures and the possibility of looking at historical process from the point of view of logical structure.



MARTIJN HENDRIKS

XXXXXXXXXX IN THE EXPANDED FIELD, 2008

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FLAT BLACK SCULPTURE SERIES, 2009

Series of proposals for negative sculptures produced by blacking out reproductions of existing sculptures.

Page 87: *Flat Black Nauman #2*

Page 89: *Flat Black Burden*

Page 92: *Flat Black Morris*

Page 93: *Flat Black LeWitt*

Page 94: *Flat Black Nauman #1*