

Daniel Permanetter
Proposal

Working Title:

"I did go upstairs but I didn't see nobody but me"

[Bob Dylan, "Don't Ya Tell Henry" 1971]



The work is a room installation basically consisting of a live-sized Bob Dylan puppet and an old wooden staircase. The staircase will be rebuilt so it appears to be frozen in a crumbling movement. The whole installation is meant to resemble the interior of a deserted, falling apart country house more in an almost abstract than in a realistic way. In front of the white back wall hanging cardboard panels function as a kind of theatrical backdrop. The panels are covered with an (artificially) aged photo wallpaper showing a kitschy landscape with animals. In front of that, the old staircase is installed hanging from the ceiling on thin wire. Further down the stairs more and more of the steps are falling apart. And the handrail is hung as if right in the moment of breaking away. Around the shattered bottom of the stairs there is old and broken furniture and pieces of the stairs spread out on the floor. The lights are placed to create dramatic, stage-like shadows.

Depending on the room the work is installed in a wall of cardboard leaving only a small opening to see through will be built to control the audience's point of view. The upper end of the staircase is hidden behind a wooden blind to keep the impression of a possible upper floor. The Bob Dylan puppet dressed in a black suit is seemingly descending the staircase in a Fred Astaire-like elegant movement holding his black cowboy hat in one hand. He too is hanging on thin wire. His eyes are closed.

