GALERIE FONTANA

The Face in the Building or History Crying

2009, mixed media (canvas with embroidered mixed-media textiles) , 145 x 200 cm, unique piece

In his work, Berend Strik examines the meaning of images. He subjects his photographs to an intensive process of re-working with fabric and thread. The stitched photographs slow down our view, and therefore intensify both image and content. By partly covering his images, Strik creates different layers of meaning to the photograph and obtains access the image. The dialogue between detachment and personal involvement play an important role in his practice. The intimate and time-consuming activity of the stitching is in contrast with the static photograph as product of the photo camera's mechanical process. Despite these alterations, the work ought to stay close to reality in order for the relatability for the viewer to stay intact. In this way Strik adds an extra layer.