

G A L E R I E G I S E L A C A P I T A I N

STEPHEN PRINA

RETROSPECTION UNDER DURESS

June 7 - July 27, 1996

The work entitled

What's wrong? Open the door! What's wrong? Open the door! ... I was scared. What happened? ... You can't lie under-water like on a bed and then just wait. You can't lie underwater like on a bed and then just wait. ... It's impossible. ... Wait for what? ... Idiot! Do you know the mess you can get me into? (clear/ramin), 1996

is comprised of 35 panels. A computer-cut vinyl, transparent film is superimposed over an Ilfochrome print (the new name for Cibachrome prints) in each panel. The dimensions of each are 80,3 x 62,4 cm; each print is overmatted and the frames are made of ramin wood. Each panel is identified with a Roman numeral, I of XXXV through XXXV of XXXV.

The meaning of an artwork cannot be reduced to the ideas that generate it.

Each print contains a vignetted letter. When read together the 35 characters form the phrase "WE REPRESENT OURSELVES TO THE WORLD," a sentence that had been used as super-graphics in the project *Galerie Max Hetzler, 1991*.

A short scene from *The Devil, Probably, 1977*, a film by Robert Bresson, is divided into 35 equal sections. A frame enlargement is made to indicate each section. In the spring of 1995, Stephen Prina offered a class entitled *The Devil, Probably x 11 + 1*, at Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, California.

"It was the best he could do at the moment," the title of a survey exhibition of Stephen Prina's work at the Museum Boijmans-Van Beuningen, Rotterdam in 1992, is divided into a 35-unit grid and computer-cut out of vinyl, transparent film in 7 colors: bright blue, clear, true shadow, yellow, green, golden yellow and vivid rose.

After the 35 panels are installed, several of the panels will be removed and recombined, in a different order, in another space to make a different sense. In the Los Angeles exhibition, LOVE was the organizing principle of this dis-placement; in New York it was HOPE. The organizing principle in Cologne has yet to be determined.