



**ARTIST**

Ella Gant

**TITLE**

The Pressure of the Unspoken (Installation View)

**DATE**

1991 – 2007

**DIMENSIONS**

33 in H x 22 in W

**MEDIUM**

Inkjet Prints

**IMAGE NOTES**

film performance installation 1991, inkjet print 2007

**CATALOGUE NUMBER**

2007.081

**CURRENT LOCATION**

NA 11

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**ELLA GANT**

**BORN**

1956

**BIRTHPLACE**

Monroe, WI

**GENDER**

Female

**CITIZENSHIP**

United States

**CULTURAL HERITAGE**

European-American

**LIGHT WORK RELATIONSHIP**

Light Work Grant, 2007

**LIGHT WORK PUBLICATIONS**

Contact Sheet 147

**ESSAYS**

Each year Light Work awards three grants to photographers, critics, or photo-historians who reside in Central New York. The Light Work Grants in Photography program, founded in 1973, is one of the longest-running photography fellowships in the United States. Eligible applicants reside within a fifty-mile radius of Syracuse, NY. Recipients of the Light Work Grants in Photography are awarded \$2,000 each to aid in the continuation of their research and work. Light Work makes these awards to encourage the creation of new work and scholarship in Central New York. The recipients of the Thirty-third Annual Light Work Grants in Photography are Brantley Carroll, ella gant, and David Moore. Brantley Carroll (Syracuse, NY) submitted work from his series *The Whipping Post*, which focuses on, in his words, "the legacy of American slavery for which I feel an inextricable connection." In his artist statement, Carroll tells the story of his father's embarrassment and shame at being related to Charles Carroll, who was an original signer of the Declaration of Independence but who also owned a large tobacco plantation and 1,000 slaves. Carroll's images are created by superimposing historical images, engravings, or text over his own photographs. Carroll has received a Ford Foundation Fellowship, sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the Department of African American Studies at Syracuse University, as well as a grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts. He has taught courses at Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts and at Community Darkrooms. Ella Gant (Clinton, NY) used her Light Work Grant to revisit a number of performative installation works and retell these pieces of her evolving story by converting them to large-scale color stills. She explains that, "each moment in our personal history embodies a complex story and every retelling offers a chance to examine and to reconsider the significance and meaning of that experience. The historical or theoretical lens we choose brings into focus our elusive identities and clarifies our daily interactions. ... I have spent my entire life wandering, observing, and collecting ordinary materials from everyday encounters. I cannot help myself from finding the remarkable within the mundane, the curious within the common, the symbolic within the literal." Gant is chair of the Art Department at Hamilton College and a professor teaching photography and video. Her work has been exhibited nationally and is featured in such permanent collections as the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, and the Museum of Modern Art/Franklin Furnace Artist Book Collection. David Moore (Syracuse, NY) submitted work from his *Rants and Rituals* series, which depicts, in his words, "Both dark and personal psychological states and symbolic rituals, the meanings of which remain a mystery to me." The images were made with a large pinhole camera, which Moore built himself out of plywood, with the lens created by making a small hole in a piece of sheet metal. The paper is put directly into the camera, and after being exposed to light, is processed in the darkroom to form a negative image. That image is then contact printed to make a positive print. Moore's image making process is marked by unpredictability, which he feels "allows for less description and for more suggestion." Moore is currently an instructor of photography at LeMoyne College, and his images have been featured in solo and group exhibitions nationwide. His work is included in permanent collections across the country, including at the Everson Museum of Art in Syracuse, Vision North Gallery in San Francisco, and Midtown Y Gallery in New York. Light Work would like to congratulate all of the winners of the Thirty-third Annual Light Work Grants in Photography and extend a special thank you to our judges: Myra Greene, Keith Johnson, and Angelika Rinnhofer. Myra Greene is an assistant professor in the Photography Department of Columbia College Chicago. She works in photography, printmaking, and sound, as well as digital production of work. She participated in Light Work's Artist-in-Residence program in 2004. Keith Johnson lives in Hamden, CT, and has been involved in photography since the early '70s. In fall 2008 he will be a visiting artist at Visual Studies Workshop in Rochester, NY, and he will complete a residency at CEPA Gallery in Buffalo, NY. He is a Connecticut Commission of the Arts fellow. He participated in Light Work's Artist-in-Residence program in 2005. Angelika Rinnhofer participated in Light Work's Artist-in-Residence program in 2005. She lives and has her artist studio in Beacon, NY. She teaches photography at The Harvey School and works on art photography. She is the recipient of a Kodak European Gold Award and recently received a fellowship in photography from the Dutchess County Arts Council. Jessica Heckman