



Sette fotogrammi della luce (Seven Photograms of Light), 1969

Photo emulsion on canvas

Seven parts 25 x 20 cm each, overall dimensions 25 x 149.5 cm

Signed titled and dated on the verso of the third canvas: "Giulio Paolini / Sette fotogrammi della luce / 1969"

Fonds national d'art contemporain, CNAP, Paris

Acquired in 1994, inv. no. 93455 (1)-93455 (7)

On loan at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, from 1 December 1994 to July 2002.

Seven out-of-focus photograms of an unrecognizable subject express the action that the light left on the photosensitive film while the work was being realized: in other words, they "avoid" the subject of the reproduction – enlarged until nothing is depicted anymore – so as to "merely withhold the irreducible quality of an instant".¹

The work represents the last variant of the series of "photograms", all of which realized the same year and made up of one, three, four and seven photo canvases, respectively, lined up in a horizontal sequence.

The number of components of the various versions is arbitrary, akin to the ambiguity of the visual given of the photograms.

¹ G. Paolini, *Figures/Intentions*, Villeurbanne: Le Nouveau Musée, 1984, p. 25 (commentary to the first work in the series, entitled *Un fotogramma della luce del giorno 6 maggio 1969*).

Exhibition chronology and bibliography cf. M. Disch, *Giulio Paolini. Catalogo ragionato 1960-1999*, Milan: Skira editore, 2008, vol. 2, p. 915, cat. no. 174.

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