

Death In Venice

This six panel work was made in 1989 and shown in Bliss gallery in Pasadena California the same year.

The work is an attempt to re-interpret the novel by Thomas Mann and the film by Visconti via still images on a strip glued to pieces of aluminum of various lengths. The overall work is approximately 6 inches wide and 12 feet long.

The images come primarily from a book called “Igor and Vera Stravinsky: A Photograph Album, 1921-1971” depicting the family snapshots of Igor Stravinsky and his wife – including various trips to Venice. Other images come from magazines about Venice and my own photographs unrelated to the city.

My adaptation of the novella and the film is an attempt to create a comic and “everyday life” version of the story rather than the allegorical tragedy of the end of civilization (Mann) or the allegory of repressed homosexuality and creative self-destruction (Visconti). The strip – in keeping with the anti-allegorical aspect of the narrative – such as it is – ends with a snapshot of a dog on the beach taking in the sun and quite happy to be photographed.

George Porcari/2010