



## Early Dynastic, 1971

Enamelled wood, pencil on wall

Four parts 180 x 28 x 28 cm each made up of two columns placed one on top of the other, overall dimensions variable

Collection Fabio Sargentini, Rome

The work involves the arrangement, at equidistant points on the diagonals of the room, of four white-enamelled wooden elements, each of which consisting of two columns placed one on top of the other, the top column being half the size of the lower one. On the surrounding walls, axial to each element, a pencil drawing illustrates the life-size outline of each of the columns, so that the four double columns are reflected in eight drawings.

"I chose the classical form of the column as it is a basic architectural form, as well as the simplest way to give concrete form to a spatial element". In this work (akin to the discourse I had developed in a similar way in *Quattro immagini uguali*) it is a symbolic indication of the endless repetition given by a limited space".<sup>1</sup> In archaeological terminology the words "Early Dynastic" indicate a specific period for ancient Egyptian architecture.

Between 1973 and 1993 the artist produced five other versions of this work, which can be distinguished by the material used (wood, marble, travertine, granite), the size, and whether or not there was a drawing on the wall.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The artist interviewed by M. Bandini, in "prospects. Note d'arte contemporanea redatte da Luciano Inga-Pin" (Milan), no. 1, March - April 1972, n. pag. (reprinted in G. Celant (ed.), *Giulio Paolini 1960-1972*, Milan: Fondazione Prada, 2003, p. 380).

<sup>2</sup> Cf. the versions recorded in this website: *Early Dynastic (II)* ("Works/Public Collections/Italy/Parma"), *Early Dynastic (III)* (made in two copies, "Works/Public Collections/Germany/Weimar", "Works/Public Collections/Low Countries/Otterlo") and *Early Dynastic (V)* ("Permanent Works" section).

Exhibition chronology and bibliography cf. M. Disch, *Giulio Paolini. Catalogo ragionato 1960-1999*, Milan: Skira editore, 2008, vol. 2, p. 931, cat. no. 228.

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