

Christoph Weber  
*The first minutes of October*

The starting point of Christoph Weber's work *The first minutes of October, 2007* is the movie 'October' by the constructivist Sergej Eisenstein from 1927, the film's production was ordered by Stalin and shows the Revolution of 1917. Weber works on the first scene showing the toppling of the statue of Tsar Alexander III., which actually had been unveiled only in 1912 in Moscow and removed in 1921. Yet in the movie this scene suggests that it takes place in St. Petersburg, although filmed on the real space in 1927 using a papier-mâché copy.

Christoph Weber analyses every take, focuses every perspective and transfers the points of view under consideration of their distance to the central subject matter – the statue – into a 3D-CAD-Drawing. Followed by a 2D-projection in steel, it materializes as a large heavy sculpture – depicting the shape of a star – that is mounted on the wall.

Without questioning the content of the film scene, Weber transforms a sequence proceeding in time into the hard material steel, of which amongst others the Tatlin-tower should have been made; at the same time it stands for enforcement, power and violence. In parallel to the endeavoured aesthetics of reception Weber dissects the shape of a star which is inherent to the system of filming in the constructivist style without movements of the camera. It relates to the communist constructivist star and therewith to the utopia of socialism. Thus Weber deletes and empties the cinematographic reality, yet at the same time he formulates a symbolic charge of the very from the aesthetics of film. Surveying the boundary conditions the 'documented' incidence on the historic location is being contextually charged and translated into a new meaning that invites to be decoded and at the same time disguises itself.

Text by curator Elisabeth Fiedler translated by the artist