

ANITA FRICEK

AN INSTITUTIONAL CARTOGRAPHY. SCENES FROM EMMI PIKLER'S LÓCZY ORPHANAGE

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An institutional cartography. Scenes from Emmi Pikler's Lóczy Orphanage
Acrylic paint and felt pen on paper, 2008 - 2012.

Anita Fricek's work concerns the aesthetic representation and analysis of educational systems. Her exhibition at Peloton develops her method of institutional cartography through around 350 paintings and drawings on paper that examine the ground breaking pedagogy of the Austrian/Hungarian paediatrician Emmi Pikler. Beginning in 1946, Pikler developed a complex system of early childcare in the Lóczy Institute in Budapest, which allowed the orphaned children in the home to grow up without the usual institutional damage.

Anita Fricek has drawn on two videos produced by the Pikler Institute as the visual basis of her work - Bernard Martino, *Les Enfants de la colline des roses : Lóczy, une maison pour grandir*, Lattès, 2001 and Anna Tardos, *Le Bain Jócó 3 Mois 1/2*, Budapest 1996. The paintings and drawings explore the orphanage's structures and systems through the interplay of abstract and figurative languages, revealing the way an institution - similar to a painting or drawing - is organised around the abstractions it enforces, and the flows it unleashes. The works develop a new approach to this institutional cartography by taking movement sequences from the videos and showing them as animation stills. This allows for a close analysis of their movements, not only that of the children, but also of the way the institution and caregivers structure and break it down.

Anita Fricek's 'Institutional Cartography' is an exciting combination of a research-based practice that examines institutional systems, and painting and drawing as tools that present and develop this research in fresh directions.

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