

## RAISING

installation Leipzig School of Graphic and Book Art 1993

Even more eventful and revealing is a 1993 installation featuring GDR aluminum ashtrays, in which Sewcz declared a corridor at the Leipzig School of Graphic and Book Art as an installation space. At the starting point is a laterally cut contact print from a black-and-white filmstrip documenting a short episode from Gorbachov's 1987 visit to East Berlin, which is mounted, greatly enlarged, over the door. Here it is not the political actors but rather their stately limousines who make an appearance as tributes to power, gliding through the streets lined with people. Two rows of ashtrays positioned at regular intervals with a corridor of space between, similarly paraphrase the rank and file, fixed by the coordinates of the floor tiling.

The ashtrays' form is anthropomorphic: the slender stems can be likened to erect bodies, the open spheres gullets, which could emit the sound of applause in unison, or swallow everything offered to them, the ironic expression of the servile spirit which has a long tradition in Germany. Here, more clearly than in Sewcz's other work, the objects are completely devoid of any reference to their originally designated function on a metaphorical level.

*Original text by Regina Erbentraut,  
State Museum, Schwerin 1997  
translated by Victoria Byczkiewicz*