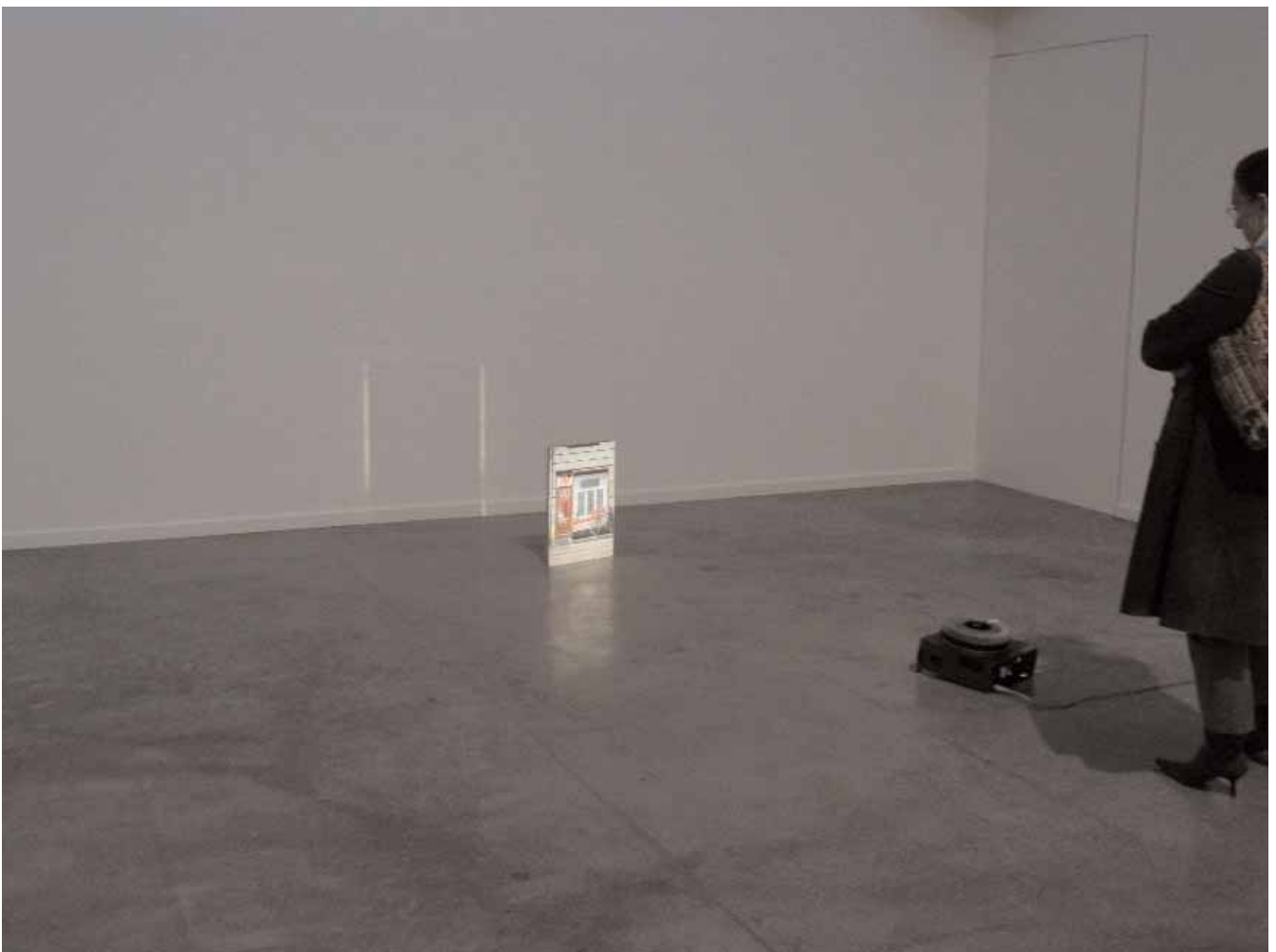


We used to run an artspace just across the street from here

Sofie Thorsen 2005

The slide-projection "We used to run an artspace just across the street from here" takes its departure point in the storefront typical for small-scale artist-run- and independent spaces and is working around the idea of the facade as a communicative space towards a public. Images of such an entrance situation with a shop-window and a door towards the street alternates with a short, model-like story about a small independent artspace, without the town or the space being specified. Neither do the images show the space itself. The story is rather simple, but addresses issues of gentrification of neighbourhoods, strategies and effects of self-organisation, and the spaces in which this can happen. Although the same few images repeat themselves throughout most of the piece, towards the end images of entrances to Viennese post-war public housing, decorated with mosaics of urban construction-sites, are mixed in. This is a modern art in public space with an educative purpose, and represents an opposition to the self-organised, individual practise of opening and defining your own space as an emerging artist.

The piece was produced for the context of the nifca-exhibition Opacity at UKS in Oslo, Norway.





We used to run an artspace just across the street from here

2005



We got a lot of attention and many people came to our openings. As if everybody had just waited for something like this to happen.



We had public funding



We tried to be professional



We even paid the artists a small fee for exhibiting



At first we wanted to be temporary, mobile, site-specific. We wanted to use the empty spaces in town and have new sites for each exhibition. In this way we hoped to be more flexible.



We worked like that for a while. But it was complicated, expensive and took a lot of work to find new spaces all the time. We had expected that the owners of all the empty shops and offices in the city would prefer them to be used. That was not the case.



And perhaps we also wanted to be more like an institution or a gallery, to locate our activity

