

DREAMLAND: The Coney Island Amateur Psychoanalytic Society and its Circle 1926-1972

Exhibition by Zoe Beloff

This document shows the exhibition in three venues: The Coney Island Museum, Kiosk in Gent and Het Dolhuys Museum in Haarlem. Each time I present the work, I create an installation specifically for the space.



The entrance to the exhibition and the overall layout of the installation at the Coney Island Museum.

THE DREAM FILMS



The “Dream Films” made by members of the Society are presented on 3 flat screen monitors and a 16mm projector. Here they are at the Coney Island Museum.



At Kiosk a special screening room was build to show the 16mm films.

THE WORLD IN WAX



This part of the exhibition asks the question, was there a figure of Freud at the “World in Wax Museum” in Coney Island? The cabinet contains a pair of glasses similar to those worn by Freud and two wax hands. The slide projector shows 80 slides of the original waxworks.



The photographs above are from the Coney Island Museum. The photograph below shows the “World in Wax” at Het Dolhuys.

DREAMLAND AMUSEMENT PARK



An architectural model of the proposed “Dreamland Amusement Park” designed to illustrate Freud’s theory of dream formation. Note there are video animations projected onto the domes of the “Dream Work” pavilion and the “Unconscious Pavilion”. The “Consciousness” pavilion and the “Psychic Censor” pavilions both rotate. All projection equipment is hidden in the base of the model.



Architectural diagrams for Dreamland.

ENGINES OF THE ID



This part of the exhibition presents evidence in the form of weathered paintings on plywood, of a bumper care ride called “Engines of the ID”. Here patrons would choose cars with names like “Infantile Impulse” or “Raw Regression” and collide into each other on the floor marked out according to Freud’s map of the psyche.

A SHORT HISTORY OF CONEY ISLAND



At the Kiosk gallery, the entrance room presents a history of the Coney Island Amusement parks from the 1880's to the present day, as well as background on Sigmund Freud's visit in 1909.



At Kiosk, two small rooms on either side of the entrance present Albert Grass's comic book, "Adventures of a Dreamer" and the Archives of the Society.

THE ARCHIVES



The Archives of the Society contain letters, snapshots and books and information panels. Here they are at Het Dolhuys.



A view of the main exhibition space at Kiosk.



A view of the main exhibition space at Het Dolhuys Museum.