

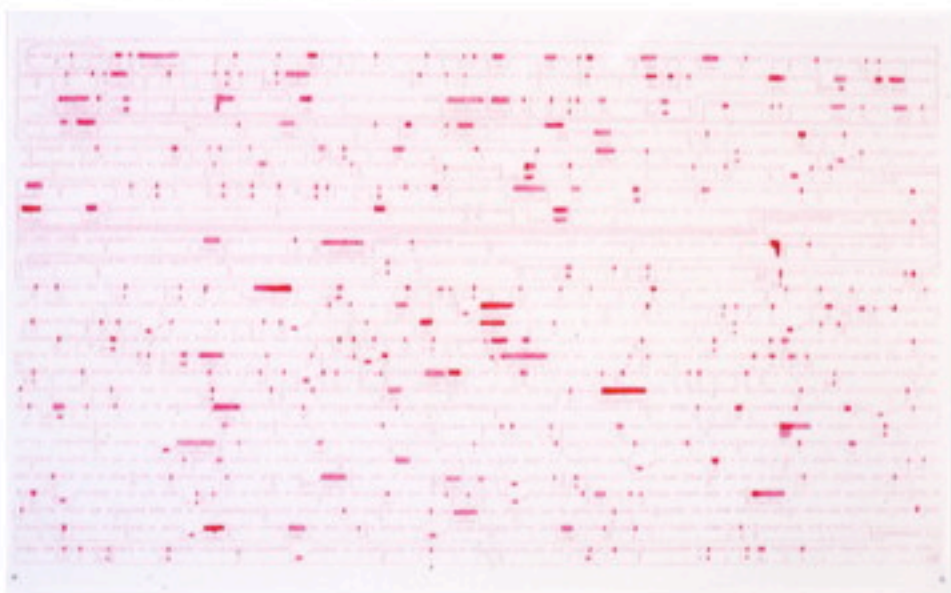
ART LIES

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Mental Maps

Dorsky Gallery



Matthew Sontheimer, *Brief Flight Extension* (detail), 2003

Ink on mylar film

16 x 21 1/4 inches; Seven parts

Courtesy Dunn and Brown Contemporary, Dallas

Matthew Sontheimer's *Brief Flight Extensions*, a series of austere ink and "white-out" correction fluid drawings, points to our habit of harnessing and charting facts as substitutes for other kinds of knowledge. Hundreds of non-sequential numbers are written in red ink, their small script precise and crowded. In nearly every number group, a digit has been scratched out, with the "correct" digit written above. Imperfection abounds, even in mathematics.

White-out zigzags tightly across blank squares, charting the vicissitudes of some mysterious data. In Green's curatorial essay, we learn that Sontheimer created this code based on his father's signature and an alphanumerical telephone keypad. These works were translated from entries in the artist's journal during a period of intense therapy. Thus, the baffling tiny red numbers secretly refer to a narrative of concentrated emotion otherwise invisible to the eye. All we can see without the background story is the focused charting of information, revealing an obsessive desire to organize and thus gain some level of understanding.