

William Kaminski

Kurt Cobain Visitation Nitemare
September 20th – October 22nd, 2016

Back Room:

William Kaminski
Kurt Cobain Visitation Nitemare, 2016
Digital Video
10:30

Contains EXTREME imagery

William Kaminski's short video *Kurt Cobain Visitation Nitemare* spins a hellish account of two Kurt Cobains, Good and Evil, battling for supremacy in a garish gauntlet of B-Movie Horror tropes. Within this reality "Good Kurt" is quiet and sensitive, while "Evil Kurt" is a hardcore, drug-fueled, sex-crazed maniac, hell-bent on the ruthless desecration and destruction of his own dopey doppelgänger. Kaminski performs both parts, amplifying the dynamism. Like its companion piece, the now infamous *Kurt Cobain Haunted Heck* (a live interactive Cobain-themed haunted house which operated for 3 nights in October '15), *Kurt Cobain Visitation Nitemare* portrays dual versions of the rock idol, locked in an existential struggle for the true legacy of Kurt Cobain.

The video was filmed entirely in a small room within the artist's studio, utilizing camera angles and lighting techniques to create the larger filmic space of "Kurt's" apartment. While the costuming and backdrops are simple they are authentic to the time period of the film. In addition, Kaminski's re-filming of the work off of a cathode ray tubemonitor, casts the video as a found VHS document.

Nitemare was incited by the artist's experience of watching a trailer for HBO's 2015 *Montage of Heck*, the documentary casting itself as the most "intimate portrayal" of Kurt Cobain ever seen. In quick cuts of never-before-seen home videos exposing a dark and unfamiliar visage, this short trailer produced a swell of anxiety in Kaminski, its gritty take on his own childhood idol threatening to invalidate and replace the artist's own "intimate" memories of Cobain.