

Assignment: Made Public

Create a work of art in a public place that addresses the physical, psychological and social dimensions of the site. You will be asked to research various public sites in order to locate an appropriate context within which to respond. Consideration of the political and ethical implications of working in a public area will be central to the development of the project. Document your project appropriately.

Note: Working in public necessitates considerations of safety, permission, and weather. Design your project with these in mind.

Exercises:

- Keep a sketch book throughout the semester (unlined)

- Using a roll of masking tape, create a private space in public or a public space in private.

- What is your definition of private space? of public space? Bring definitions to class to compare.

- Site analysis: using drawing, collage or any other appropriate means, explain one aspect of a public or private space of your choice. Your investigation can focus on use, navigation, distribution, rhythm, air flow, temperature, sound, emotional qualities, color, etc. (no text). The results will be discussed in the classroom, so choose a site which is close by or bring a photograph.

- Using demonstrated techniques in plaster, metal and wood (casting, drilling, cutting etc.), create an object which functions as "interruption" in a public space.

Readings:

Acconci, Vito. "Public Space in a Private Time," Critical Inquiry, Summer 1990, Vol 16, Number 4
Finkelpearl, Tom. "The City as Site", Dialogues in Public Art, MIT Press, 2000
Antin, David. "Fine Furs," Mapping the Terrain, Art and the Public Sphere, Ed. W.J. T. Mitchell
Young, James E. "The Counter Monument: Memory against Itself in Germany Today," Mapping the Terrain, Art and the Public Sphere. Ed. W. J. T. Mitchell