

NO TITLE

We determine the boundaries of certain things, events or situations when we define a given word. The act of defining not only gives life to that word, it likewise limits things to certain interpretations. However, what is often a characteristic of art making is that it allows the act of manipulation or transformation in order to subvert the “acceptable”. This form of alteration not only results in multiple meaning but also allows for (a) different experience(s) in an otherwise common situation.

For this particular work, I have created an installation of books, Neon light, photographs and sound. I chose the book because of their individual physical structure, that of a bound object consisting (sheets) of paper and its cover, and decided to transform them into something else. I turned each book upside down so as form a tent like structure and covered each with asphalt, so as to negate its accepted ~~and~~ definition and functions as a “written compilation of ideas that impart knowledge and experiences” and thus produce a different way of viewing its image.

Inserted inside the books are actual photographs of homeless people sleeping in the streets. All photographs are guerilla shots which I took every day around Metro Manila. Through this process I encountered many unforgettable experiences with the people on the streets. And by putting their experiences and mine inside the books new possibilities of representing and its content could emanate as the original orientation are negated.

A red neon light that reads FREE DELIVERY, a symbol for mass consumerism was taken from the word deliverance, which has a religious undertone. It also provides a sense of urban landscape that evoke a feeling of night time which is then contrasted with the sound of crickets from McDonalds Happy Meal toys to evoke a sense of sleep and nature in an urban setting.

I propose to construct an environment of shelters by using books and turning them up-side down to form tent-like structures. A neon light that reads FREE DELIVERY is installed on the wall. Nine light bulbs are placed on the floor. One hundred fifty books will be used, underneath each (books) is a photograph of homeless person sleeping around Metro Manila. All books are covered with asphalt.

This work deals with the concept of banality and by transforming what is otherwise considered common into something else, a shift in a visual experience takes place. Turning my experiences and the environment that surrounds the urban scene into an artmaking process. All elements are common as they can be but through the construction of new possibilities of presenting them result new interpretations and metaphors.