

The Art World of Mark Jenkins: Tape Sculpture & Street Artist (10/22/2013) Bea Ogden

I am creating a website that chronicles and maps the tape sculpture installations of street artist Mark Jenkins. He has been working for many years, around the globe, creating pieces out of recycled and disposable material, he then installs the pieces on the street and secretly films and photographs the public's reaction to his work. He has been featured in a few smaller galleries, but, his work is predominantly en-plein-air. Mark Jenkin's sculptures often end up being cleaned up by the city, taken home by passers-by, or destroyed by the flux and movement of the environment. His sculptures are installed anonymously, he doesn't sign his pieces, nor does he leave a label offering the "tombstone" information often associated with viewing art: he is a street artist, and as such, he is both nameless and unattached to the finished art product. Mark Jenkins has no formal training as an artist nor sculptor, he has been educated as an ecologist. He observed the public's destruction of the natural world, and the strange juxtaposed beauty these destructing acts can result in: this inspired him to explore sculpture, and utilizing packaging tape, plastic bags, plastic bottles, detritus, and garbage seemed a fitting way to complete the commentary on the juxtaposition he observed.

The narrative he creates with his pieces are often melancholy, strange, humorous, and mildly disturbing in their authenticity and believability. He holds up an effective mirror to contemporary society, and I will be exploring this dialogue through my field guide. I am drawn to Mark Jenkins' nonattachment to his final product, he does not need recognition, nor does he sculpt for any financial gain, he creates art to generate dialogue, and his pieces often require his audience to realize that what they are witnessing is, in fact, art. I wish to give a well-developed voice to his pieces, to encourage the inherent dialogue I observe ripening in his work. Not only will I be utilizing online transmedia resources, but also I will be utilizing the publications of Gestalten--a Berlin based design and art publisher--who published The Urban Theater, Mark Jenkins art book, exhibited his work in their gallery, and hosted him as a visiting artist, transforming their gallery into his temporary laboratory (<http://shop.gestalten.com/>).

For my field guide, I have created a WordPress site that will incorporate different transmedia resources to explore the Art World of Mark Jenkins (<http://blogs.uoregon.edu/theartworldofmarkjenkins/>). I will also be utilizing the interactive open source platform Place Stories (<http://placestories.com/about>) to map and create online monologue vignettes filmed/recorded from the perspective of Mark Jenkins tape sculptures. I will be utilizing the interactive map feature of Place Stories to demarcate where and when Mark Jenkins created a tape sculpture street installation. The map will not only illustrate place, but also time and longevity of the sculpture (if available). I have emailed Mark Jenkins to conduct an interview with him to include on the site too.

As a way to take the message and intention of Mark Jenkin's tape sculptures and actualize it into my experience as a street artist, sculptor, and fan, I have started to create a couple of my own tape sculptures. Time permitting, I will be installing them on the University of Oregon campus and secretly filming the public's reaction to them. If possible, I would like to record monologue vignettes for these sculptures to include on my website, to stand as, potentially, "the next generation (or offspring)" of the tape sculptures of Mark Jenkins.

Mark Jenkins, for me, is the (still-unknown) Banksy of en-plein-air found object installation pieces that are subtly political and psychologically evocative; this in my inspiration for creating The Art World of Mark Jenkins.



No Child: Mark Jenkins: Malmö

Transmedia Resources

Websites: (Preliminary List)

<http://www.xmarkjenkinsx.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KjMWGgNxcao>

<http://usshop.gestalten.com/urban-interventions.html>

<http://usshop.gestalten.com/the-urban-theater.html>

<http://usshop.gestalten.com/art-and-agenda.html>

<http://shop.gestalten.com/>

Books (Preliminary List):

The Urban Theater, Mark Jenkins

Art & Agenda: Political Art and Activism, Robert Klanten; Alain Bieber; Pedro Alonzo; Silke Krohn

Urban Interventions: Style & Art, Personal Projects in Public Spaces. The first book to document the next quantum leap in artistic work now hitting public spaces. Editors: R. Klanten, M.

Huebner

World Atlas of Street Art & Graffiti, Rafael Schacter

The Street Art Book, Ric Blackshaw