

Elena Bajo

Proposal for Bimal Projects: 'Spotless Mind' exhibition-April 2, 2008

Intructions to make a sculpture which is not a sculpture:

1. Choose a limited amount of objects, from 1 to no more than 7, and you are allowed to repeat an object, up to 7 times (no more than 7 objects though)
2. All objects are found/used and they all have some handicap, broken or otherwise, you can break them if you want, or somebody else can break them, you can look for these objects in dumpsters, construction sites, etc. Think of them as your building units, to construct this non-sculpture. You are free to attach them to each other or leave them anattached
2. One or more objects are made of glass
3. One or more objects are made of mirror
4. If using other materials, colors are limited to white or black
5. Incorporate one or more working light bulbs, any shape, turn them on
6. At least there is one object or more you hate
7. At least there is one object or more you love
8. Put them together and start to work with them, video tape the process of making these arrangements, from the beginning until the end, without editing mistakes
9. FOLLOW YOUR INTUITION and start right away to arrange the objects, on the floor, like when you were a kid and were playing with your toys or kitchen objects... in your bedroom or ...its a very organic process, you have to do it by doing it...spend time with them, maybe several days... be patient and try, it will happen...
10. Keep on arranging them until their different voices start to sound harmonious, like you can recognize a certain rythm, like in an orchestra, they ar just different instruments trying to play together...
11. If they sound too harmonious, not good...destroy the arrangement and start again
12. By playing with them on this way they will reveal a story to you, a story or an idea you have never thought of before starting this work, let them talk to you, they will reveal their issues and probably you are interested in some of them, pick one or more and have it as the concept of the whole work, so now you are focused and ready to make your piece strong and powerful, have your senses open and work with them, engage in a conversation with them, and negotiate what you are doing together, you have a lot to say about what you are interested in. Every decission you take WHILE BUILDING THIS PIECE, will be about supporting the concept behind, DON'T FORGET THIS, in the first place you have started to make this piece with an unknown motivation, probably an unconscious motivation, now the materials will help you for this to me manifested
13. HOW DO YOU KNOW THE PIECE IS FINISHED? You will be finished when you think you are not finished yet, and you will not be finished if you think it is finished, the idea is when the piece is finished somebody else will look at it thinking how he or she will finish the piece, like he or she is recognizing or reading the work as a work in process, this is good, but be careful there is a fine line between something that is not there yet (it doesn't have enough information to communicate something yet) and something that IS NOT THERE ANYMORE, and so obvious and doesn't leave any room for the possible viewer to engage with it (I am afraid you have killed the piece, you have given out too much, there are not more secrets, no poetry, no more mystery,!!! you said

it all...its a statement, and you don't want that to happen either), then you have to stop at the point in between, when the piece suggests questions, it is OPEN and it is very alive, with a high level of potential energy, to go one direction or the other... SO, YOU SHOULD STOP HERE... You might have numerous points like this through the whole process and they will all be fine, just chose one

14. AS AN ARTIST, YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE to decide how you want to show the piece in the space, where and how to display it, pedestal or no pedestal, floor, ceiling, wall, maybe you just want to show the video as a sculpture or maybe you just want to show the re-arranged objects, or maybe you want to show just these instructions, or a sound recording of it or not even that, it will be ok also to tell somebody about it, or just the fact that you are reading this and imagining it, will be enough, really IT IS ALL UP TO YOU, ... ah, also the title, don't forget the title...or maybe you decide not to put a title, untitled is fine too...

good luck!