

urban occupation : ACTION

research : **Banksy**



Image: "One nation under CCTV" "Suicide Bomber?" "Tourist Information"

Source: www.banksy.co.uk

authors / actors / participants:

The author of this work is an anonymous Bristol-born graffiti artist known only as Banksy. The paint, walls and streets to which they are painted on can only be described as his actors, whilst the participants usually include the authorities and general public.

title: "One nation under CCTV" "Suicide Bomber?" "Tourist Information"

location: Worldwide. UK, USA, Australia, Israel

date: 2000 - Present

manifesto:

As he remains anonymous, Banksy's manifesto is open to interpretation.

He makes it clear from his pieces that his work is not in itself a political or social campaign. He is not obsessed with anarchy or social disruption. Instead one would observe him as taking a "tongue-in-cheek" attitude towards many of the issues his work covers. He manages to expand his audience through an almost Urban Guerrilla Art style of activism.

A manifesto that he made public relating to his work was in the form of an extract from a diary by a Lieutenant Colonel who was among the first British soldiers to liberate Bergen-Belsen in 1945. The extract describes, in depth, the sufferings and deaths of many men, women and children within the camp. It then goes on to explain the odd arrival of: "a large quantity of lipstick" to the camp, intended for the women. The passage ends with the realisation of: "At last someone had done something to make them individuals again, they were someone, no longer merely the number tattooed on their arm. At last they could take an interest in their appearance. That lipstick started to give them back their humanity."

In some way, this passage suggests Banksy is attempting to unite the people of the world by giving them back a piece of themselves through art and satirical comedy. A piece of their identity that has been lost through the confusion of modern War, Politics and Capitalism.

techniques / tools: Due to the illegality of the nature of his work it is key that he is able to quickly set up and produce a piece in the minimal amount of time possible, in order to avoid capture by the authorities or risk being identified by the public. Therefore he uses pre-prepared acetate stencils and paint to carry out his work.

action: The action involved is where the risk lies in his work. He has to be quick, which is why he uses stencils. The key to the "performance" is to make the political or social piece look spontaneous - a perfect example of 'instant occupation'. Making it harder for the authorities to control.

actual outcome:

The outcome of Banksy's work is usually successful in bringing certain political and/or social issues to the attention of the general public as a way of highlighting the serious problems of the modern world in a satirical way.

It is not well received amongst authoritative bodies who perceive the work as nothing more than childish vandalism. His work is more often than not, removed.

However, on many occasions it is proved that his work is received positively amongst the public - occasionally councils have run online polls for certain pieces of work and if they are well received by the public then they are left as artistic landmarks.

Banksy manages to unite the public in that they perceive their commonly known issue represented in his work as having a humorous twist. Allowing them to better understand the irony that surrounds the issues.

urban occupation : ACTION - Research: Precedents

Comrie, Christopher, 324573



Image: "Let them eat crack!"

Source: www.banksy.com



Image: "cansbudder"

Source: www.banksy.com

bibliography:

www.banksy.com 26/04/2009 + 27/04/2009

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banksy> 27/04/2009

<http://caixadelata.blogspot.com/2007/11/banksy-manifesto.html> 27/04/2009

Urban Occupation: ACTION - research: precedents