

mini graff

Mini Graff, a street based artist created tac-tile patterned steel betting plates, initially inspired by urban themes, such as street signs found on buildings and posts, as well as architectural designs discovered randomly whilst exploring Maitland CBD. During further exploration and discovery of the Maitland landscape, Mini began altering her initial stencilled designs to those of the natural environment which encompass the Maitland region.

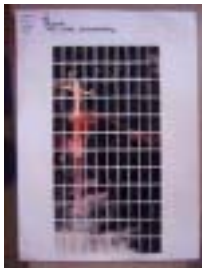
The created designs are transferred onto rows totalling 320 individual betting plates/cards. The rows assembled on a metallic free standing frame greet all visitors at the main foyer entrance. Visitors of the gallery are invited to physically engage and produce their own unique designs, turning over each individual steel card, creating a design of their own. Mini stated, 'the designs, as well as the cards were inspired by the industrial elements of Maitland, as well as the natural beauty which surrounds this city'.



Gallery Main Entrance



Design based street influences from High Street



Example of patterned plates

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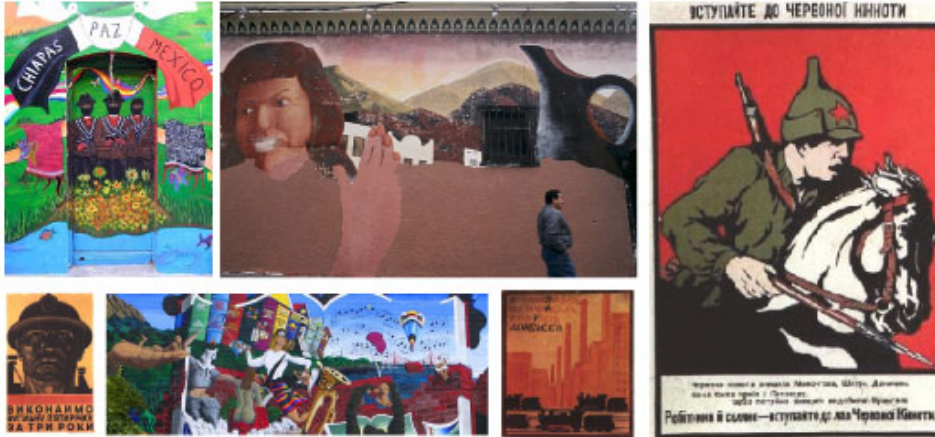
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Proposal 03.08.2006

Inspiration

Throughout most of my adult life I have had an interest in street art. From the large Hispanic murals painted in South of Market, San Francisco to the layers of political posters that would have been found on the streets of old Russia.

The open dialogue between the street and the viewer has always fascinated me.



Over the past few years, however, my focus has become more localized.

Recently I worked on a street art project, which involved attaching panels of artwork to a laneway wall. To compliment the students artwork, we commissioned a large sized mural. The space looked fantastic and what was once a dark, graffiti covered laneway now became a positive, colourful environment.

I also conducted a community survey to collect feedback from the local community. Many community members simply had an aesthetic opinion on street art. Some were simply positive. Most comments I have heard many times before.

"...i like the butterflies, I don't like the tags..."

"...i really don't the like the big letter work - it's ugly..."

One criticism of the project I found particularly intriguing.

**"...it (the street art) needs to be
on a
panel and framed"**

After receiving this feedback, I wondered;

1. Could street art survive the traditional museum/gallery application of being captured behind wood and glass?
2. What is acceptable street art? Are the masses still more interested in erecting bronze sculptures in place of supporting and acknowledging a culture that exists within their communities?

Objective

To create a work that encourages the user to reveal their perception of acceptable street art

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WEEK 1: Visiting the site, materials and structure

1. Introduction to site/Maitland

1.1 Selecting a site

We had the option of installing the work in two areas; the main gallery entrance or the gallery shop wall, under the stairs.



1.2 Installation Issues

Discussions with Peter (Gallery Installation Coordinator) as to how the structure might be attached to the building. Would we attach directly to the historic brickwork? Was this possible? The brickwork would provide a great exterior, more street aesthetic. However, this option was declined, due to the historic listing of the building. Our next best option was to install a panel in the space, and attached the construction to that - this also has it's advantages;

- a. we have the option of painting the background surface any colour
- b. resolving the background allows the piece to me more flexible in it's position - if the piece was re-positioned within the gallery, it could survive against any background surface.

The background texture will be resolved over the next 2 weeks.

The scale of the piece was also adjusted, due to my response to the site requirements.

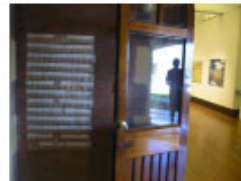
2. Responding to the site

2.1 Scale

Once the site was selected, I needed to consider how my proposed structure would fit within the allocated environment. Using card to create a mock-up structure, I created several variations of the 'cards' size and position.

These samples allowed me to make a decision on size and format.

- how would the piece look as patrons entered the gallery
- the main gallery door is always open and hinged back to the (chosen installation) wall space. How do I work with the door? Can I use the glass within the door frame to enhance the work, somehow?
- how would I document the different compositions created by users? Would a camera be provided to the reception staff to document, or could I leave the camera beside the installation?



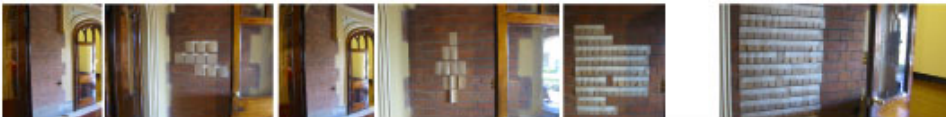
2.2 Materials

Originally I had proposed building the work with manufactured sheet metal. After spending 2 days onsite and around Maitland, my main structural material ideas changed. While exploring Maitland I found the city to be very 'tactile'. There are numerous old buildings with plaques stating time of construction. I also found several abandoned, old signs attached to buildings.

These objects were the street art in Maitland. Unlike Sydney, with it's mass of tagging, murals, stencils and pieces, Maitland had a more traditional texture feel to it's alleyways and streets. In response to this environment, I collected rubbings from plaques, disused street signs and photo's of building details.



The street signs will provide the physical material for the installation, the city textures will provide the visual subject.



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www.minigraff.com

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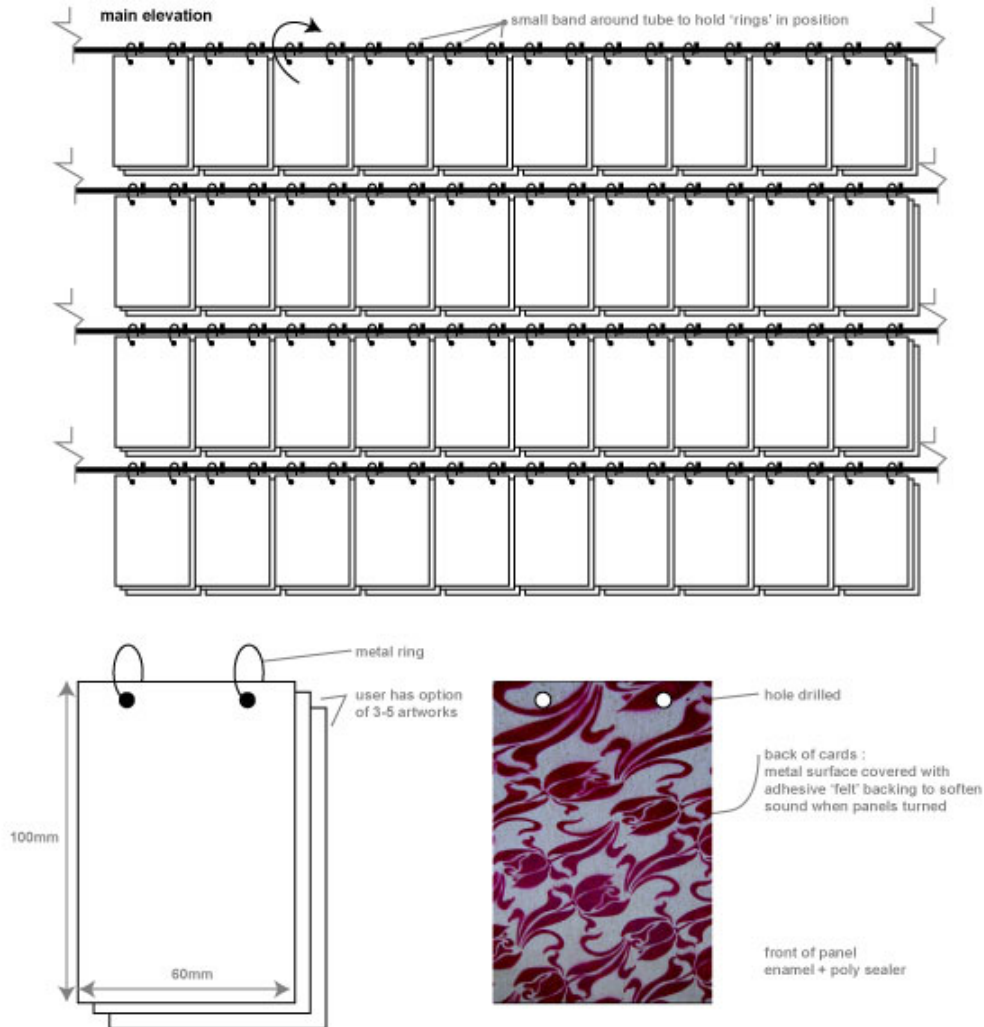
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Proposal 09.08.2006

Construction - Metal Horizontal Version

The artwork will resemble a vintage racing bookmakers betting stand, or an old fashioned airport timetable board. It will feel industrial and urban.

Users have to knock the metal cards together to change to artwork. During this process, the artwork will scuff and eventually look well-worn - replicating the behavior / degeneration of an art work exposed to the elements of the urban environment.



to resolve: how structure is attached to wall (diagram not to scale. Approx size provided)

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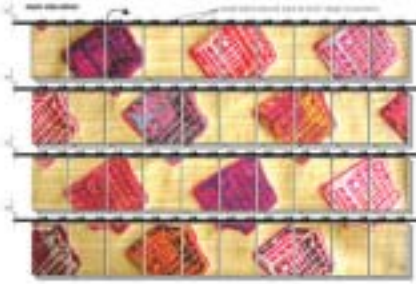
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Construction - Metal Horizontal Version - Sample with Artwork Surfaces



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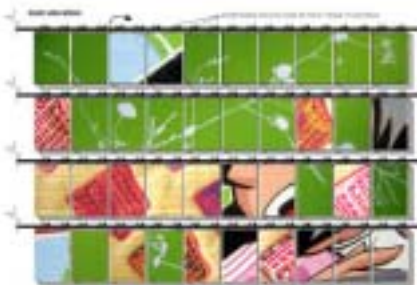
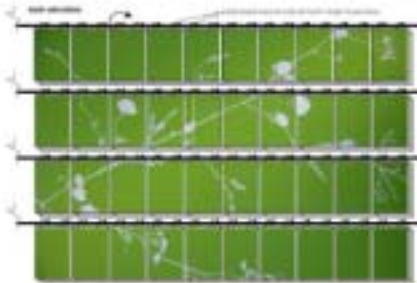
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Construction - Metal Horizontal Version - Sample with Artwork Surfaces



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Documentation provided by Mini Graff – Design elements