



Garbage Pin

Garbage Pin is born of a definitely urban concept, the appropriation and reinterpretation of a daily use object: the garbage bin.

Being one of the most common typologies of urban equipment in the cosmopolitan network, the garbage bag belongs without any doubt to the collective imagery, present in every urbanite life's day as a reflection of a culture involved with the accelerated and growing consumism, as is ours.

It is a call to reflect on the current social paradigm that confronts notions such as "waste" and "valuable", both relative and subjective concepts. It is a call as well for the innumerable problems that derive from a society of consumers; those of environmental and ecologic sort that lead us today to a future break with the current ecosystem.

This is a project that originates several pieces. It isn't a unique piece but certainly a production series that prompts *work in progress*, where the idea of *open work* is also defended. This way, the pieces only acquire sense when interpreted by the users. The potential users of Garbage Pin are those who inhabit the big cities.

As a piece of jewelry, it is presented as a pin of reduced dimensions (4,5 x 2 x 3 cm): a metallic silver structure that holds a tiny, transparent plastic bag (the garbage bag). This bag, once full, can be removed, closed with a wire and kept as a outcome of the experience.

The piece is sold as a kit that includes spare plastic bags and wires.

The choice of materials used (silver and plastic bags), provokes the confrontation of concepts such as value and waste. Silver as a noble metal is opposed to plastic bags, used and discarded in our society in frightening amounts.

Like so arises a piece that transits between the 'design object' and 'artistic object' border. That is, starting from a common ground (serial object), different interpretations start being generated and in that sense, each interpretation is considered as the possible result of an artistic intervention. The *artistic outcome* defended here comes from the different 'garbage contents' generated and kept by each person. Each of these bags represents a real moment, the itinerary lived by a subject in a day (or more) and the bag content is the result of a selection, a personal choice.

Normally we throw to the garbage what we do not want, all what we consider waste in our lives. Like so, the Garbage Pin follows this intention and we can place in it innumerable objects, in parallel to the use we normally give to garbage bins (food waste, a rubber band, a cigarette butt, for example). However, the Garbage Pin can also be understood as a “reliquary”, where each person can keep small mementoes, symbolic of their day to day, small nothings that remind big moments (a trip ticket with somebody special, a flower, something we have been given, a photograph, a love letter.. etc). Garbage Pin can be understood as a means to throw away all our “interior junk” (fears, nightmares, secrets, lies, feelings of guilt..) through written messages. It can also be lived as a metaphoric vehicle of critic if the user pretends to express an opinion about something that s/he considers contaminates urban society. This way, diverse realities can be referred to through signs or symbols (weapons, money, political signs, sexual abuse, organ theft, cloning, genetic manipulation, transgenic foods, nuclear energy.. etc) or even to something that society does not value but could be preserved (water, threatened animal species, natural landscapes.. etc). In summary, it doesn't exist a guide of procedures or instructions predetermined for the use of Garbage Pin, each one is free to choose what to place inside of the plastic bag, each individual selects her/his “personal rubbish” and is responsible of it. Each user presents her/his proposals.

How to acquire Garbage Pin

Garbage Pin is currently sold in galleries or through the link:

<http://anacardim.myshopify.com> (shipping include)

It can exceptionally be given as a present. Each person that acquires Garbage Pin is informed of the project and becomes part of it by receiving a proposal.

The proposal

The proposal consists in asking the carrier to make use of the piece in a conscious manner during 5 consecutive days. Through this period of time, s/he will experiment with it and choose the contents to put on the plastic bags according to her/his perspective and reflections originated by this project.

After that time, s/he would have gathered 5 garbage bags with their respective contents. Each bag has to be sealed with a wire and kept. It is asked not to throw the garbage bags generated in this experience to the garbage bag, since they will be later on used to build an installation. For each of these bags, a picture is asked for (jpg or psd –300 dpi definition) with a neutral background (black or white)*. We also ask for a picture of the person (half body) using the garbage pin (jpg or psd –300 dpi definition) with a neutral background (black or white)*

Each person is requested to write a small text (max. 15th lines, body 12) to present the reflections and sensations experimented throughout the use of this piece, together with a description and explanation of the choice of contents that have been placed inside of each bag.

All graphic material should be sent by email to garbage.pin.project@gmail.com

* We reserve the rights to exclude from the catalogue those pictures that not correspond to the graphic demands we ask.

Project exhibitions scheduled for 2009

Handout deadline for graphic material: 20th May 2008

Posting deadline for pin and garbage bags: 25th September 2008 (posting expenses held by the participants)

Pins and garbage bags will be returned to the participants after the exhibitions (posting expenses held by the project organizer)

The installation

As the last objective of the project, an installation will take place to exhibit the pins, the different garbage bags kept by some of the people who have used the piece.

Each pin and the five bags, shown together with a small text written by the user with her/his picture using Garbage Pin, will create a unit for the exhibition. A maximum of 100 participants (500 garbage bags) are expected for the exhibition. The units will be exhibited in the same wall in lineal modular sequences (bags + text).

Documental registry

The creation of a catalog is fundamental as a document to register all this action. This catalog collects a photographic selection of the different garbage bags and their respective contents together with some texts and pictures of the users. It will include a preface explaining the project and a critic text about this work.

Theory structures for this project

Understanding that the current reality is full of virtual situations and information pretenses, it is considered that art must, in this moment, create realities that can be experienced in real time by real people. Leaving aside the artistic line that offers solutions or proposals controlled by the artist, it is intended with this kind of work to follow a line that produces real "happening possibilities" by the potential users and that these finish the work of art, openly, contributing with a perspective. These people are, through reflection, to offer alternative proposals according with each one's subjective reality, contrary to the closed conclusions, pseudo-universal or global.

In this kind of work, just a 'device' is provided, the conceptual challenge, the invitation to reflection.. later on, this device is put into action by the different subjects. They are invited this way to conclude the work of art "their way", according to their point of view, reached from the conclusions they've

developed as a result of their real experiences and of the socio-cultural frame where they take place.

It is a search that tries to capture defined frequencies amongst the immense and abstract idea of 'urban mentality'. It is an effort to collect data anthropologically valid so that, through these devices, the individual thoughts of the people who create the current reality of our social urban landscape can be felt, listened and given an active voice.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all that have contributed to this project!

Best Regards
Ana Cardim

Actualizations:
anacardim.com