

Ideas Taxonomy of Non-Endangered Species

"Taxonomy, the classification of the natural world, is a theory of order imposed by man, not an objective reflection of what is present in nature". If taxonomy was introduced to Disneyland it just wouldn't be a perfect utopian society. Walter Disney created Disneyland to be the friendliest place on earth. In this sculpture Mickey mouse is climbing on a ladder up to stuffed toys preserved in jars. What this represents is Walter Disney trying to find happiness to introduce to the youth. The toys represent fun and excitement and they're trapped waiting to be let free, to entertain youth.



Tar and Feathers*

Year: 1996

Materials: Tree, Wooden Base, Tar, Feathers, various taxidermied animals and String

Dimensions: 259 x 101.6cm

Type: Installation

This is my feature work that will be displayed in my exhibition. This is going to be my feature work as it relates to the region that the Christchurch Art Gallery is in. The South Island of New Zealand is home to many pests and rodents, and this installation sculpture relates to the South Island's pest problem. I think that people when they see this sculpture they will be able to relate to it and they will be able to gather the themes and ideas from it and, then see that what is going on in the sculpture is happening right under their noses.



Taxonomy of Non-Endangered Species

Year: 1990

Materials: Toy Animals Preserved in Alcohol, Animated Mickey Mouse Figurine, Ladder, Shelves, Glass Containers and Audiotape.

Dimensions: 89 x 150 x 250cm

Type: Installation, Sound Art

Ideas

This sculpture 'Tar and Feathers' is humiliating towards the extinct species. This is done by the method of tar and feathers. This method of tar and feathers was used back in history as a public humiliation for doing something bad towards society. This is portrayed towards the animals because most of the animals are pests and the tar and feathers that have been put onto them is meaning that society doesn't want them in the world anymore and they need to be punished.

Methods

The method of dunking various taxidermied animals in tar and covering them in feathers relates to the main idea of this installation sculpture, extinction and humiliation of rodents.

The animals are also hung by parts of their bodies; this is sending the message that they are on display to the public as they're being humiliated. The technique of personification is used here.

Dear Christchurch Art Gallery

My name is Mark Dion,

I am writing to you as I am interested in using around 6 gallery spaces for a small exhibition. One particular space will be required for my feature sculpture. The space is just an empty room with a wooden floor the wooden floors will enhance the theme of my sculpture, 'Tar and Feathers', the sculpture consists of a tree and assorted taxidermic animals hanging from the tree. **Everything in the sculpture is covered in tar and feathers. The idea of this sculpture is that the animals are like pests and they are verging extinction. And society is humiliating them as a punishment because they are pests.** I have found a gallery space I am interested in I have found one with white wash walls and a wooden weathered floor. The reason I have chosen this space is because of the simplicity of it and I don't want the room to drag attention away from the sculpture.

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I was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts in 1961. I now work and live in locations in New York and Pennsylvania. I am represented by Tanya Bonakdar Gallery in New York and In SITU Gallery in Paris. I received a BFA in 1986 and an honorary doctorate in 2003 from the University of Hartford School of Art, Connecticut. In my sculptures I try and shape peoples understanding of history, knowledge and the natural world.

I have received numerous awards, including the ninth annual Larry Aldrich Foundation Award in 2001. I have had major exhibitions at the Miami Art Museum (2006); Museum of Modern Art, New York (2004); Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, Connecticut (2003); and Tate Gallery, London (1999). Neukom Vivarium (2006), and a permanent outdoor installation and learning lab for the Olympic Sculpture Park, was commissioned by the Seattle Art Museum.

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A lot of my work includes taxidermic attributes as a lot of my works ideas are to do with extinction and the environment and society's view on the environment and taxidermist attributes portray these ideas very well.

Two other sculptors that have showed their interest in this exhibition are, Jessica Stockholder and Thomas Grunfeld. These two sculptors would fit in well in my exhibition and they fit in with a lot of the themes and methods that I excel in.

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I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Dion.



Empty Gallery Space



Space With Sculpture