

Future Therapeutic Art Installations in Ontario

I am very interested in this projects. My work, especially this that I am proposing here, fits perfectly in a requirements that: "art works need to create a more welcoming, safe and comfortable environment for patients, workers and visitors" in a public health care environment.

The main theme beside the mood that effects emotion will also reflect the difference of each of us in cultural, psychological, emotional, spiritual, political, physical or ethnic way and emphasize the "right to be different" as a basic human right.

Primary interest for my previous work was analysis [psycho geography] of public urban built environment, the setting for human activity, ranging in scale from buildings to cities and beyond contemporary urban ambiance, that I am calling "postmetropolis".

Ambiance significantly changed in past 18 months to include adaptation to the changes caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and we are more and more relying on our personal inner space. We hope to find better practices and more sustainable ways of living life and fulfilling our needs.

I am thinking along the positive side stories of so-called eco-modernists more then ever needed in this challenging time.

Down the road I am envisioning that this project can be further developed to become collaboration /co-creation of similar type of art objects and be used as an art therapy activity. It requires very basic tools and materials and can be performed practically anywhere. Without any doubt I think that this can be organized even over zoom or other on-line social media, as an interactive or presentation type of activity.



Foreword to Proposal

This story started recently during period of social and physical distancing. Only place where we were meeting our granddaughter was Cherry Beach where she and her mama and tata were walking their dog.

On one of those walks she found a piece of dry bark in the tall grass and ask me:

- ~ Deda can you make me something out of this?"
- ~ Yes, what you would like me make you?
- ~ Please make me a reindeer.

Perfect opportunity. So reindeer was born.

Why this reindeer is having a **green hair**?

Well, that is a starting point of the next segment of this story. Long time ago, when our daughter was small I invented the story about green hair reindeer, ready for exploration.

Following text is just a small portion from that story:

*"In some country far away [or very close just around the corner] there was a reindeer living in a place where nobody liked him, some people were chasing him away, nobody liked his company. Why, he was wondering, until one day walking by the nearby lake he noticed that he was having a **green hair** like nobody else.*

*... After few days [**green hair reindeer**] came back to the place that he remembered well. From the distance our reindeer was observing the underwater town covered with the transparent cupola, with all the houses, streets and multiple urban squares surrounded with a forest.*

*... Hosts accepted him [when he entered] in their community where lot of the animals had **green hair**, but some other raindeer, some other animals and some other people are having a hair of various different colours. Our reindeer felt happy, worry free and satisfied. In no way he was feeling different and unimportant.*

*... One more important task was in front of all of them, to transfer to the rest of the world that sense of mutual acceptance and explain to them how **right to be different** is a basic human right."*

As Robin Wall Kimmerer, Indigenous person, distinguished professor of Environmental Botany, Director of the Center for Native People and the Environment, said:

"It was trough the action of reciprocity, give and take with the land, that the original immigrant become indigenous. For all of us, becoming indigenous to the place means living as if your children's future mattered, to take care of the land as our lives, both material and spiritual, depended on it."



After a long foreword PROPOSAL

In our physically distant present, interactions with public art and each other require a distance, but I hope that we can bridge these gaps by engaging with nature and using display where my creations can be explored without interaction with other art enthusiasts.

Through the use of natural, recycled materials, I hope to create minimal or no waste in the production of this commission and instead honour the potential found in organic materials all around us. I would provide several dozen of these toys depending on the requirements of the space.

Toys vary in sizes between ~8x6x4in for the largest to ~6x3x2in for the smallest. Each would carry a singular perspective, equal, reciprocal and interconnected.

I would like to see them displayed on the transparent polyester shelves with the “display set text” with shortened version of the foreword included here.

Down the road in the “art therapy” stage of this project, I would like to challenge everybody, to find any discarded pieces of wood, dry bark, branches, pebble, thread, wool or something else found on the ground, and **make an animal, real or imaginary.**

Those not having artistic or craft aspirations will be encouraged to display a form recognized as an animal or just as being beautiful. Images can talk with thousand words.



Bio

Aleksandar Janicijevic was born and educated in Beograd, former Yugoslavia and later relocated to Canada. He graduated Architecture and Design from University of Beograd, and continued his education with numerous certified courses, workshops and seminars. His experience in Architecture, Art, Photography and Graphic and Multimedia Design was recognized by Seneca College, Toronto and he was employed in the Media Production Department. For eight years he was working in the Centre for New Technologies in Teaching and Learning.

He was also involved on couple of research projects in a Revitalization Institute at Seneca College, as an urban analyst and in a role of Chief Media Specialist.

Parallel with the work at the College he was involved in his Art Practice. He had 4 one man and more than 40 group shows of space objects, installations, drawings, art prints, paintings and photographs. In 2001 this art practice evolved to the exploration work on the large project "**Urban Squares**", consisting of urban analyses, VR panoramas, photo blog, psychogeographical portraits, public art, articles, public presentations and lectures.

Since May 2012 when he took early retirement from the College, Aleksandar is active in numerous initiatives around Urban Revitalization and he is participating in conferences and symposiums. He is continuing his private practice in Art, Illustration,

Graphic and Web Design and Photography. He participated at the Toronto Art Salon regularly from 2013 to 2020.

From 2015 Aleksandar is a founding member of **Resilience 2:1**, a multi-disciplinary, non-profit organization, group of educators, researchers and professionals focused on the issue of resilience for Canada during a changing climate.

Conclusion

Social and physical distancing, Equity in public space, Reciprocity, Resilience, Climate Change, Social and Physical Equality, Environmental protection, Participation, Right to be different, Placemaking, Public Art, Psychogeography, Observation, Perception, Nature, Better Future, Anti-monumental Public Art, Creativity in all of us ...

More Info about my work

<http://urbansquares.com>
<http://urbansquares.com/21greenhairtoys.html>
<http://aleksandar.urbansquares.com>
<http://resilience2to1.com>

Contact me

647.204.6256
or even better at
me@urbansquares.com

