

memefest 2007

the urban animal

Living in an urban environment of our own construction, we humans have created a habitat for ourselves that is completely removed from nature. Few elements of the original ecosystem have sustained and those that have been vilified by us as vermin and pests.

Our project is a response to this state of things, as it focuses on incorporating 'animals' back into the urban environment. It is a reminder of what was there before as much as it is a celebration of the animals that continue to thrive along side of us.



The project consists of decoupage fabric animals, at actual scale, adhered to the outside surfaces of buildings. We chose bold patterns to help to call more attention to the animal-forms without actively defining what is being portrayed. The medium, repurposed cotton linens and wheat-paste, is completely biodegradable and so leaves no lasting impact on its environment.







Most of the installation takes place in and around the Mile-End neighborhood of Montreal, more specifically in and around the back alleys off the main streets of the Mile-End. The Mile-End is a bustling multicultural community; one where most of the inhabitants get around on foot- a fact which is significant in that it provides many opportunities for our animals to interact with people. We found the alley-ways to be a more interesting setting than street-front surfaces for the placement of the animals because it is less confrontational than traditional street art pieces. With this gesture we are able to mimic the timid behavior of wild animals in an urban environment and make the animals more believable in their setting. The use of bed-sheets as our medium is also a reflection of the visual vernacular of the back alleys, the clotheslines and laundry that are not usually part of the visible, public part of the city landscape.

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