

Memefest

Radical Intimacies: Dialogue in our times

We are all so sheltered, constantly complaining about how the society we live in is changing or how it could be better. We always seem to be comparing the past with the present, talking about how kids use to play in the streets “back in the day” and now they are all using iPhones and iPads. Is it because we have become too jaded and bored with our lives that we turn to negativity and complaining?

I spent six weeks in Bosnia last year; at the time I was there it became the poorest country in Europe. People relied heavily on their crops to feed them because buying food was way too expensive, the unemployment level was at its lowest and people who did have jobs rarely, if ever, received their pay on time. Yet people there still had a positive outlook on life and still hope that one-day things will get better. When you learn what life is like for most of these people it makes you so appreciative of everything you have and. It's funny coming back home to Melbourne where people complain about how bad Australia is because “smokes are too expensive”.

For my Memefest design, my aim is not to tell people that their issues are not relevant, because all of our problems are our own and they matter to us. But I do want to remind people that maybe things aren't so bad. Remind them to look at what is actually happening in the world and let them know how lucky they are to have a shelter, good health, food and love and not everyone has that privilege.

Advertising has become a part of our lives, it's not subtle, it glares down on us from billboards and butts into our lives. We have learned to block out advertising and information, whether it's a good message or a bad one we generally don't care anymore. When something strives to get our attention it becomes boring to us and we simply ignore it.

Art can make people really stop and look. It can make the viewer think about the message that's trying to be conveyed. It's not supposed to look good, it's suppose make you feel something, trigger ones emotions. It can be very much appreciated. Melbourne has a very artistic culture, here people welcome and embrace all things art. I feel like if I just make a simple poster and stick it onto a bus stop, people wont 'really' look, they will just think someone is trying to sell them a product and move will ignore it.

Many believe that street art rebels against authority, but I believe it's trying to communicate to society. It's something that's not in your face and that's trying to compete against everything else around it. It's a form of art that you have to look for, sometimes you don't even look for it just finds you and when it does you take time to observe it and really think about the message it's trying to tell.

I feel we lack optimism in today's society because we are so scared of tomorrow. Fear is a strong emotion and if one taps into it, it's easy to manipulate someone. The media spreads a very negative message to its audience, it builds up fear so it can have a sense of control over us. Telling us about war, death and drugs, when in reality it's really not that bad. Most of us have a roof over our head; we have health care, jobs to sustain our lives and family's to come home to.

By using newspaper articles to spray paint positive messages on it, I'm showing the viewer that the newspaper is just paper, you shouldn't allow it to have control over you and affect your life so much. Yes it's good to know the news and know what's happening in our world today but you shouldn't let it control you.

Putting a message like "you're doing better than you think" on the stock exchange page, I feel like it will give the viewer a sense of comfort. People who generally read the stock exchange are not fond of street art, by seeing that a street artist is trying to communicate to them a positive message and not just vandalising something that is very important to them will trigger a positive emotion for them. It becomes a clash of audience, an artist telling a businessman to relax.

These posters will be placed in busy lane ways around Melbourne. Street art is very urban and I want it to fit into the urban surroundings, it will also be exposed to all sorts of different people that walk through these alleyways. The posters will not be screaming for attention, if they were they would not work, people will simply just ignore them and the dialogue will fail. It's something that can only be seen if the viewer finds it or if it finds the viewer. When the viewer finds it the message will become a lot more intimate, like it's only been communicated to you alone because you found it and not everyone else around you is aware of it. This might make the viewer stop and look at it, think about the message being communicated.



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UN gets tough on militants

Key points

UN Security Council has passed a resolution to crack down on militants. The resolution calls for a more robust approach to dealing with groups like al-Qaeda and the Taliban. It also demands that these groups stop attacking civilians and that they be held accountable for their actions.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the resolution was a significant step forward in the fight against terrorism. He called on all member states to support the resolution and to take concrete steps to implement it.

The resolution also calls for a more coordinated effort between the UN and other international organizations to address the root causes of terrorism. It emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach that includes counter-terrorism, development, and human rights.

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Iraq war may bust budget

The cost of the Iraq war is expected to significantly impact the Australian budget. Analysts predict that the war will lead to a substantial increase in government spending, which could result in a budget deficit. This could have negative implications for the Australian economy and the government's ability to fund other key programs.

Street

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Tablets

AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR	FOREIGN EXCHANGE	COMMODITIES	FINANCIAL MARKETS	THE WORLD INDICES
US Dollar: 1.05	UK Pound: 0.70	Oil: 80.00	S&P 500: 1200	NASDAQ: 2500
EUR Euro: 0.65	JP Yen: 100.00	Natural Gas: 3.00	DAX: 3000	FTSE 100: 6000
HK Dollar: 0.70	AUD Dollar: 0.75	Gold: 1200.00	Nikkei: 15000	Hong Kong: 20000
SG Dollar: 0.70	NZ Dollar: 0.60	Copper: 3.50	ASX 200: 4000	India: 10000

INTERNATIONAL CITIES & COMMODITIES

City	Commodity	Price
London	Gold	1200.00
New York	Oil	80.00
Sydney	ASX 200	4000
Hong Kong	HSI	20000

ALEX

