

Transportation Art Essay

The most important thing I gained from this project was the experience of making art outside of academia, and maybe even more importantly, in a foreign country. There were constant battles of simple issues like finding the correct supplies, dealing with the post office, and most importantly, perhaps the largest battle all artists everywhere must face, time and money. At what price does our preferred media have on our art? I found the price too great. . . I spent so much time and effort finding supplies specific to printmaking that ended up costing too much and not producing the result I desired. Perhaps my expectations were too great, or rather, my expectations were shaped by years or study in a print shop. These were not bad expectations, and really only natural, but the fact is I am living in a city where I do not have access to a print shop, plain and simple.

So I began to think of resources with a larger definition than what can be found in a print shop. Time. . . perhaps every human being's greatest resource that is never found in a plentiful supply. After examining my new life and career in Prague, I realized that as this project is about adjusting to public transportation, public transportation also provided me with a resource that I wasn't using. So I began to make my own metro cards, sometimes while on the metro. I also resorted to an old friend of mine- the needle and thread. Then I sewed on them a path, somewhat mimicking the route of metro train or tram or bus. Sewing seemed to fit with this project because a needle and thread can be taken anywhere and easily fit into a bag, and most importantly, can be used in the crowded metro.

I guess I'm wondering at what point do we become a slave to a medium. . . and I feel like that is what I experienced. I love printmaking, and I know I that the connection that I have with carving a block is essential to much of my art, but other than that, right now in my current living situation, I feel that I'm lacking any other reason for printmaking as being my art's medium. I must try to adapt. . .

July 2006