Eclipse: Eliciting the Subjective Qualities of Public Places

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Subjective experience of place

https://www.flickr.com/photos/lauras_eye/5162377277/

https://www.flickr.com/photos/9422878@N08/4798348592/

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The Eclipse

- Capture subjective qualities of people’s experiences and relationships with public places
- Generate rich resources to inspire design interventions in public spaces
Art Gallery of Ontario

AGO

Toronto, Canada

Canadian Art Collection
The workshop

13 participants

Museum staff:
- Curator
- Docent coordinator
- Security guard

The Public:
- Art teacher
- Artist
- Computer programmer
- Marketer
- etc.
Eclipse: Four Sequential Activities

Memories

Sensations

Sense of Place

Stories
Memories

24 photographs

In the gallery

Participant’s selection
Sensations

Light

Sound

Smell

Movement
Sensations
“This is where my sense of smell kicks in. I like to come here for coffee. Again, I’ll stare up at the natural light, and the texture in this room too, it makes me want to touch.”

Perceptions

- Where do you feel hot or cold?
- Where do you feel bright or dark?
- Somewhere there’s a strong smell?
- Something that feels interesting to touch?
- Anywhere that makes you speed up as you move? or slow down?
“I don’t really come to this room often because I just don’t relate to any of the pieces. I just don’t think that they’re really interesting. There’s not a lot of information about them as you look at them. [...] When you’re here, you feel like you have to either know what it is when you walk in or you just have to like it. I don’t like it.”
I grew up in Northeastern Ontario. I’m really familiar with the landscape and color palette and seasons. Pretty much makes me very nostalgic for home. […] really nostalgic almost to the point of sad for having to live in the city and not being able to be out and experiencing it on a regular basis.”
Find and show us three artworks.

For each, use one word to describe it, and one word to tell us its association to you.
Stories

Pogo printer

Writing on the storyboard
Title: The Making of a Friendship

Captain Haida was alone, a captain who travelled all over the world. He met many people but never felt like he had met a true friend who shared his interests and sense of humour.

Queenie was an exciting artistic soul; always ready to try something new. She loved to travel, drink and laugh. She was a baron keeper at a place called Parker's, a performance artist... but she had never found anyone who truly challenged her.

Captain Haida was travelling in an Archada towards a pirate port. He was dropping of some goods after a trade trip to Belize. He was anxious to hop off the boat & let his hair down in a popular artsy hipster pirate bar.

Queenie lived in a pirate port. Her choice of homes was related to all the exciting things that happened in the port city. It suited itself to her artistic character. Many crazy people andvents inspired her artwork. She always felt like she was waiting for something.

Meanwhile at a pirate artsy hipster bar, a performance piece, art battle & dance party were going down. Across the room, Captain Haida spotted Queenie. Surrounded by friends & hauntperson... he headed over... cause it seemed like a cool crowd...

After a debauched drunken evening involving cherubs & white colonialists Queenie & Captain Haida realized they were a perfect friendship match (just friends... no kinky stuff). They formed a partnership that blossomed into a wicked artistic practice evidenced by their now canonical passenger pigeon masked ball performance.

The End.
Story:
The Weekend Explorer

Title: The Weekend Explorer

Wanting to explore the city, this weekend Sarah decides to go to the AGO.
Looking for inspiration and something new, she looks at the small details in the paintings that catch her eye and make her stop and look deeper.

Moving on to the next room to see the familiar work of the Group of Seven, hoping again for her to really look.

Not knowing which Group of Seven it is, she checks the plaque.
Floating from one room to the next, getting lost in a good way.

She continues her exploration, amazed by the space and light of the gallery. She continues her exploration until she realizes she's hungry. Time to go!
Toolkit

Memories
- 24 photographs
- 1 pad of post-it notes
- 1 pen

Sensations
- 4 sets of 24 photographs
- 1 pad of post-it notes
- 1 pen

Sense of Place
- 4 index cards
- 1 audio recorder
- 1 photo camera

Stories
- 1 blank storyboard
- 1 photo camera
- 1 Polaroid pogo printer
- 1 roll of tape
- 1 pen
Future work