Darcy E. Van Buskirk
WINDOWS PROJECT PROPOSAL

PROJECT TITLE: MISCELLANEOUS

CONCEPT:
Language is a ubiquitous quality of human existence. Not only is language manifested in our oral, textual, and visual interpersonal communications, it also forms the structures of mathematics, computer programming, and logical reasoning. At the metaphysical level, language operates as a tool of classification, and as such, informs the unconscious mapping of our perceptions of the abstract world. Language, therefore, is more than simply the transmission of information through words, sounds, or pictures. It is everywhere, highly individual, sometimes liberating but usually restricting, sometimes transparent but more often ambiguous.

I first heard of the Information Superhighway in fifth-grade. It was at that time still a hypothetical concept that, as I understood it, had something to do with my telephone talking to my TV talking to our family computer (because we were fortunate enough to have one), so that talking to other people in other places would be easier. It seemed absurd and unnecessary, but that was over fifteen years ago. Since then, information technology has become an integral part of day-to-day existence.

Because the relevant lifespan of technological developments continues to shorten exponentially, obsolescence is understood as both unavoidable and a necessary condition of progress. The world is becoming increasingly ephemeral and intangible. There is something about the printed word, in contrast, that is reassuringly concrete, immutable, permanent. In employing text in lieu of media that is technologically based, the piece I propose for the Windows Project evades the problem of obsolescence.

The proposed sculpture exists as a large chrome-plated steel version of the word, "miscellaneous." The word "miscellaneous" was chosen as the subject of this piece because it defines ambiguity. It relates directly to the organization of information. The sorting of knowledge is shifting from analog systems, which by virtue of matter require physical arranging, to digital systems that, in transcending physical space, need not be organized in a fixed manner. A consequence of this change is a semantic shift in which specific labeling (a by-product of classification) is problematic and undifferentiated miscellany is favored. By using highly reflective chrome-plated steel letters, "miscellaneous" refers not only to the space inside the window well and the world outside the building, but also to the space inside the building reflected on its surface. "Miscellaneous," therefore, will function as a permanent label for the ever-evolving spaces that surround it.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:
The word "miscellaneous" will exist in Helvetica Bold font cut from 1/8" thick mild steel sheet. The word will measure two feet high at its tallest point, fifteen feet in overall length, and will project one foot from the surface of the wall to which it is mounted. Welded to the back of each letter will be two to three mounting posts, depending on the shape of the letter. The opposite end of each post will have a bracket with holes for two cement anchors. After fabrication, the letters will be professionally chrome-plated. Installation of the letters will require the pre-drilling of holes into the cement wall with a hammer drill and the mounting of the letters with cement anchors.

The word will be illuminated at night by four lights placed in each corner of the opposing wall (outside the perimeter of the window). The lights to be used will be small outdoor flood halogens that can be wired into the building from the exterior wall.

(continued on following page)
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REQUIRED TOOLS:
- hammer drill
- driver drill with appropriate bit
- MIG welder with .30 or .35 gauge wire
- metal file
- angle grinder with steel grinding disk
- wrench

REQUIRED MAINANTENCE:
The piece will require little routine maintenance. The word’s surface will need to be cleaned periodically – once a year should be sufficient – and the lights will require bulb changing on an as-needed basis.

ESTIMATED BUDGET:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE/UNIT</th>
<th>UNITS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WATER JET CUTTING SERVICE</td>
<td>150.00</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4'x8' sheet mild steel</td>
<td>125.00</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>150.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLATING SERVICE</td>
<td>55.00</td>
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<td>715.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/8&quot; steel rod</td>
<td>1.45</td>
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<td>56.55</td>
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<td>outdoor halogen floodlights</td>
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<td>80.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>cement anchors</td>
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<td>78</td>
<td>29.64</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>1181.19</strong></td>
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</table>

PREVIOUS WORK:
Selected previous works can be viewed at the following Flickr link:
http://www.flickr.com/photos/darcyvb/sets/72157617041050685/

REFERENCES:


miscellaneous