TENSION

Art on the BeltLine Entry, 2018 | Gavin Bernard

Summary: There is beauty in disclosed tension; it creates an opportunity for conversation that can in turn become a bridge connecting that which at some point seemed irreconcilable.

Concept: Ponce de Leon Avenue stands today as a physical testimony of a point of tension Atlanta knew well after the Civil War: segregation. This important street once separated two completely different racial and socio-economic demographics; and even though this separation has become blurrier over time, it is still visible in some parts. Intersections such as Boulevard and Monroe Dr serve as reminders of a spatial boundary that once segregated affluent white neighborhoods in the north from lower-income black neighborhoods in the south. The name change of the street speaks for itself.

The tension present during those times brought about changes such as the Civil Rights Movements that bent the course of history from our very own backyards.

Tension (of other kinds) are still present today in our city and in our world. Cultural, social, political, racial, religious, artistic, and philosophical tensions between us and others surround our everyday, though unspoken most of the time.

Tension is often seen as a thing to avoid, a thing to hide; yet it is precisely in the synergy created by two opposite forces pulling apart where an opportunity for action can arise. It is in the midst of tension where honest political and social discourse is needed and where art should have a voice. It is in the midst of tension where creative thinking thrives.

Tension is good. It is when we embrace it, outside and inside ourselves, that we grow. This installation seeks to celebrate both the concept tension as well as the bridge across Ponce de Leon Avenue and the many conversations it represents.
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DESCRIPTION: “Tension” is a two-dimensional string installation composed of repeating geometric patterns that change colors over the length of the Ponce de Leon Avenue bridge.

INSTALLATION STEPS

1. Assessment and documentation of the existing conditions of the Ponce de Leon Avenue bridge [done].
2. Recruiting of staff: 3 people. Meeting with staff to go over design, schedule, process, and practicing of knots and cutting procedures.
3. Preparation of site which includes using color tape to mark and number the points to be used while weaving each section.
4. First section is built using a pre-cut piece of cord that is 140” in length.
   - Weaving pattern will follow the numbered path starting on the top right and ending on the top left (see graphic to the side)
   - The first and the last knots will be done using a Backhand Hitch knot and finished by burning the ends of the cord and bonding them to the back of the knot.
   - The cord will wrap around the fence horizontally as seen on photo to the right to keep the tension.
5. Once the 140”-length of the cord is confirmed on site to be appropriate, the remaining cords will be cut using the hot knife cutter.
6. Once the first section or “star” is completed, artists will start a new section following the pre-designed pattern. There is a total of 40 sections on each side of the bridge; 4 different colors will be used as shown below.

Note: Installation is projected to take a total of two evenings (5 hours each evening). 5 people will be needed to complete the installation. Power cords, clamp lamps, step ladders, and other tools (not budgeted) will be used during the installation.

COLOR PALETTE [CONCEPTUAL, PALETTE MAY CHANGE]

BUDGET

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Unit price</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Subtotal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500 Paracord (3/16&quot; Solid Colors 500 Ft Rell 18 colors)</td>
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<td>Pearson Electric Rope Cutter</td>
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<td>Extension cords</td>
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<td>Artist hours (5 people, 10 hours each)</td>
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<td>50 hours</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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INSTALLATION GUIDE

Conceptual Elevation: Proposed pattern

Example of proposed weaving

Proposed knot: Backhand Hitch

Existing fence: Top condition

Existing fence: Side condition
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Gavin Bernard is an interior and product designer, and a large-scale installation artist. Native of Great Britain, who has called Atlanta home for the past seventeen years, he is the co-owner of the interior design firm Grafite.

Grafite has designed interior spaces for Octane Sparrowhawk, Aviary Salon, among others. Gavin is also partner of Wake Up Dear, an Atlanta-based design group which created "OOO", an intricately woven pendant light that creates geometric patterns of light and shadow. He designed and installed the art experience for WonderFarm 2014 at Krog Street Market and has worked in other creative installations in the Atlanta area.

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Above and below: OOO Light by Wake Up Dear
Contribution: Design and construction
Photos credit: Joshua Flaii.

Above: Henry & June by Grafite
Contribution: Design of interior space and construction of art installations within the space
Photos credit: Elliot Liss

Below: Octane Coffee by Grafite
Contribution: Design of interior space
Photos credit: Andrew Lee

Above and below: WonderFarm by Gavin Bernard
Contribution: Event design and construction of art installations
Photos credit: Ross Knight.