Summary of Performance Option in Lieu of Thesis
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:capture [les mots juste]

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:capture [*les mots juste*] is an examination space, a container, in which the

audience experiences being both subject and object, while interacting within the space

and its contents through discovery and play. This project in lieu of thesis is a visual

application of a diachronic theory of the machine that centers on the significance of

information through constructed language, time, memory, and place. This gallery

installation references Baudrillard's simulacra; Foucault's panopticon; de Certeau's

everyday; Fillou's ideas, objects and events; Cage's transcendent silence; and de

Saussure's structural linguistics in a synthesized laboratory environment.

The project, :capture [*les mots juste*], consists of surveillance cameras and

monitors, video/audio information stations, a clear vinyl tent that represents both a private

and public space, and a video projection that requires the audience to intervene within the

projected viewing space. In addition, a countertop display case contains artifacts, relics,

and objects elevated to a perceived value by this mechanism of separation and control; protected from the audience by the glass wall, but accessible from behind.

The audience is invited and encouraged to become part of the space, to play, and to change the system by inventing new rules of operation. While participants in the system explore, examine, and reflect upon their relationships with the objects, their behaviors are being monitored, recorded, and collected, to be projected in another part of the space. Observers and participants can trade places, but never see themselves in each role. So, to whom is the machine answerable?

An experiment, :capture [*les mots juste*] is a contained space simulating the machinery of social controls, designed to involve the audience in examining public and private behaviors. The panoptic framing places the audience in the position of both subject and object, encouraging awareness of the constructs of language and the power of the machine.