

Semesterkritik Spring 2010
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As an exchange student coming from the Rhode Island School of Design in the United States, I have taken this semester at the zHDK to experiment with a wider variety of media including video and interactive sculpture/installation. Previously, my work was primarily expressed in painting. A few months before my exchange began, I began to question my interest in painting and made several drawings which were more conceptual in nature as well as a piece of sound art.

For economic as well as practical reasons (lack of materials and means of properly situating myself during a 4 month exchange), I endeavored to use Gabriel Orozco's practice as a guide to metamorphose my own. As he is an artist who does not work dedicatedly in a studio space but rather forms concepts on the road to later complete them, I found his method particularly suitable to my situation.

During my travels throughout Europe during the semester, I climbed a number of cathedral towers in different cities. I began to be interested in the rhythms created from climbing these stairs in what seems to be an unending corridor. I was thus excited to create my own set of stairs and experiment with the possibility of creating a score that can be repeated endlessly. At the same time, I was curious how much control I could have in the performance of the "composition" by other persons. I wanted to question the authority an author, composer, or artist has in creating his work and its interpretations by the public.

Continuing with the idea of endless loops, I created a series of video pieces dealing with everyday tasks which are repeated on a daily basis such as getting dressed, rolling around in bed and making the bed. These videos are tinted with a sense of absurd silliness influenced by Sartre's *Myth of Sisyphus* and Bruce Nauman's video work such as his *Clown Torture*. Seeing as these were my first experiments with video art, I found myself unsatisfied with most of these videos. I have decided to create new videos with less emphasis on linear storytelling as the necessity to watch such videos beginning to end is tiring to me.

I enjoyed this shifting of my practice over this last semester though I did miss the more sensual act of drawing and painting. I would like to make more work wherein the viewer is confronted with an object or action and must react to them such as in the stair piece. I also like the videos for their brevity. Often I feel as though I must make work that is grand and complex but it's very freeing to make a work without over thinking. And which may in turn become something else.