

Ideas

- ❖ The song Moby Dick might refer to the relationship between man and machine and how man is always after new technology.
- ❖ This piece takes homage to the time when Chris Burden crucified himself on a beetle. You can see this by the car Damian used in this performance. The V.W beetle is the symbol that refers this performance to that work by Chris Burden. Another thing that these two have in common is that they are both performance's that use the physical body to act a role in these performances.
- ❖ This performance could also which one wants control man or machine.
- ❖ **Tug of war between man and machine**
- ❖ **The struggle references mythologies of man and nature in contexts with contemporary urban hunt which also would refer to the song he chose to play while this performance was happening which was John Bonham's solo from the song Moby dick by Led Zeppelin.**
- ❖ This is a throwback of Lygia Clark's works E.G Elastic Net, 1973 This work concentrated on a group of volunteers tangling them self's up to bind their bodies together to form one confusing body.

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Method

- ❖ Tug of war while the car tries to drive away with grease on the ground under the car.
First part -a V.W beetle vs. Damian Ortega
- ❖ Second part – a V.W beetle vs. Damian Ortega + 4 other people pulling on 5 pieces of rope.
- ❖ This takes place in a parking lot on the lower grand avenue



Moby Dick, 2005
by Damian Ortega

Two part performance while being recorded on video.

Cosmic thing, 2002
by Damian Ortega

Stainless steel, wire, 1983 Volkswagen beetle

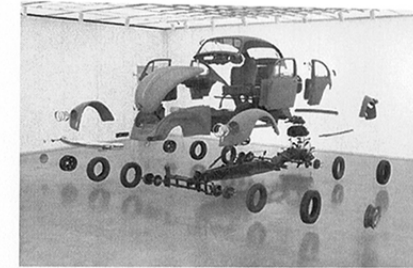
Ideas

- ❖ This refers to and reverses Gabriel Orozco's la ds (1993) in this work Gabriel has compacted a car so now instead of two people being able to fit in the car. Now only one can fit in it. This is shown in reverses. Damian has in stead on compacted the 1983 Volkswagen beetle he has expanded it as though the car was in a explosion or in a design program on the computer showing every piece that makes up the car.
- ❖ This sculpture invokes cartoon and how their eyes pop out of their head. Damian relates to this because he began as a cartoonist.
- ❖ This car was developed in Germany but now is mass produced in Mexico was Damian was born and he is now living in Berlin.
- ❖ Ortega likes to play around with the idea of optical illusions.
- ❖ The 1983 Volkswagen beetle was considered to be a people's car since the popularity of it.

Method

- ❖ **Deconstructed/disassembled Volkswagen beetle and recomposing it piece by piece being suspended in mid-air by high- test aircraft cables.**
- ❖ **Fragment object offer's a new way of seeing the car.**

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Art work Analysis

Hello my name is Damian Ortega; I was born in Mexico City in the year 1967. I started my career as a political cartoonist and since then I have found other ways of expressing my opinion, throughout my work. I now live in Berlin Germany.

Throughout my career of being an artist I have exhibited internationally this includes solo exhibitions at the Institute of contemporary art at Boston (2009), the centre Pompidou in Paris (2008), Ikon gallery in Birmingham (2007), also in the year before that at the museum of Contemporary Art at Los Angeles (2005).

I have also been in group exhibitions including the Sao Paulo Biennial (2006), "made in Mexico" exhibition in the institute of contemporary art in Boston and many more.

The ideas that my work explores are Economic/aesthetic, cultural situations and in particular, how regional cultures affect commodity consumption also violence/war.

I like playing with optical and physical allusion for example false movement (stability and economic growth) this art work looks like it's about to crumble but really the oil barrels are fixed together. The base actually spins around and it rotates the oil drums giving it the false sense that it going to fall.

The art work that I am proposing to be part of the upcoming, group show is "Cosmic thing" which I made in 2002.

To make this art work I took an idea from Gabriel Orozco's "la ds". His sculpture was a compacted car with only enough room for one person to fit inside. I took this idea and reversed it, so instead of compacting the car, I deconstructed and extended it out so that every part is visible to the viewers. These parts were then hung from the roof in a white room. For my car I deconstructed a 1983 Volkswagen Beetle. This type of car was developed in Germany and is now mass produced in Mexico. So really this car could refer to my life but in reverse.

Thus work of mine also refers to Peiro Manzoni's art work called "Socle du monde-base of the world". This art work is a cube that is made out of iron and bronze, with the words "Socle du monde" upside down.

The idea that I took from this work was that everyone has a different opinion; everyone sees the world/object differently.

My work has different faces and different ideas formed when people viewed my work.

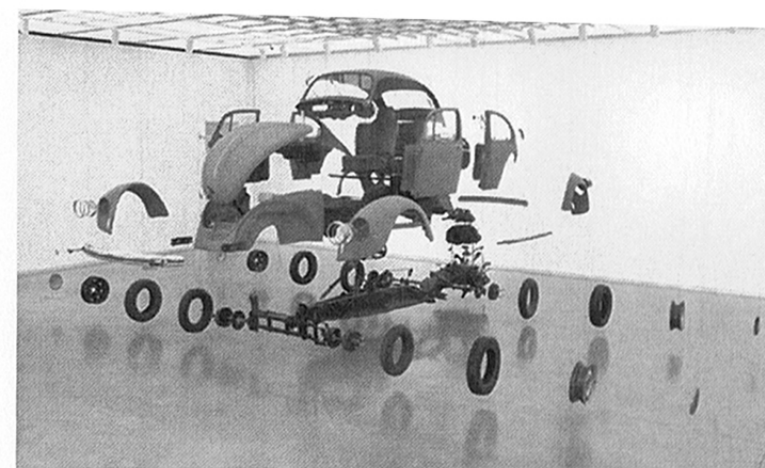
It lets you view the 1983 beetle from a different perspective and when it is put to gather its just another ordinary car.

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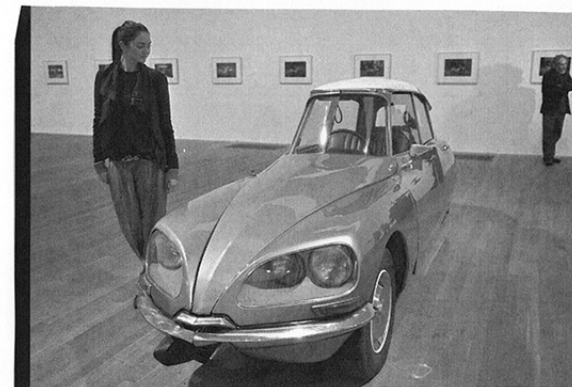
Related Artists

The two artists that I have chosen to exhibit with are Piero Manzoni and his art work "Socle du monde – base of the world". I will also be joined by Gabriel Orozco's and his art work "LA DS".

I have chosen these two artists to join me in this group show because they will enhance the viewer's perspective. These artists' works share a common factor with my work "Solce du monde-base of the world". ^{we have the same idea} We share a common idea and with Gabriel Orozco's work "LA DS" we have reverse method of showing our cars he compacts while I extend.



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Gabriel Orozco's "La ds"