

David Behar Perahia - ARTIST STATEMENT

I believe in process. Process is like the gentle breath of a newborn, giving a vital pace for things to come. Different ingredients intertwine in the duration of a process: observation, listening, sketching, meetings, discussions, experimentations, collaborations, performing, participating, celebrating, documenting, reflecting.

When I arrive to a site in question, I take some time to explore with curiosity and collect first impressions of the place. I observe the different phenomena that characterize the site. The questions of place builds up with time, where layer after layer is being experienced and exposed. The first impressions are coming from intuitive readings, which turns to be the foundations for the things to come. For this task I use to sketch ideas, record sounds and images, that lead to a visual based research. The aim is to let appear and absorb the essence of things, the kernel characteristics of a given place.

Multi dimensional research exploring possible contexts. A research process is like an inverse action of archeological dig, instead of revealing and removing layers down to the initial phases, here it slowly builds up, exposing and adding layers of context. A deep, layered research builds up an ability to connect points, that might be selected from different contexts, like historical, formal, aesthetic, political and social. It's a process that invites the act of play and fantasy. An outcome of a process finds its anchor into a time-space and place matrix, like a metal pole obtruded in the heart of a cathedral.

Exposing the social dimension of a place asks for a process of listening. Starting with a question in hand, the Journey develops as a piece of clay in hand, accumulating and molding towards a clear context. People encountering the process help to define meaning, by sharing their everyday perspectives of the place they participate in a long adventures path that have the potential to suggest a collaborative process of making.

With a background and mindset based in sculpture, I bring forward the process of making with real physical materials, playing with their shape, compositions, weight, mass and textures to pronounce thoughts and ideas. This ever-changing process juxtaposes matter and context, and the outcome offers multiple interpretations. The process might take participatory character where people met along the way, join together to create a temporary, task related community, sharing together the experiences of making and ideating.

Similarly to the mastermason, who procreated a community process towards a shared vision of place, the artist is acting towards being a sensible facilitator of a creative dialogue with people of the place. This process shapes and crafts a community, a group of people who are joining the artist practice. In the process, dialogue brings understandings, empathy and solidarity, which take direction towards collaborative creative discussions. The art of listening is building up trust, and creating platforms where sounds and voices can be heard clearly. Once trust has been achieved, then an offer for a collaborative action can come forth, open up and flourish. An action in one community can ripple out farther, into the larger world. Like a stone thrown into the water, the outcomes of a process and their impacts can communicate and affect larger and larger circles, that diffract multiple meanings of a specific place.