**The Fabrication of Truth: Re-Animating the Erased**

**Douglas College Digital Cultures Lab Project – January 2015 – May 2015**

**@Douglas College Makerspace**

**What We're Doing:** We want to print 3D objects that are no longer manufactured (ideally, things that were once mass-produced, but now have almost entirely disappeared, so things that are rare), or that are symbolic to different cultures in a specific way -- not religious symbols, but statues, or other monuments (Easter Island heads for instance).

**Why We Are Doing It:** 1) We are looking to see how the reproduction of erased objects activates an emotional response. What does the reappearance of a material, tactile, object mean to the individual or group that desires it, or originally produced it? 2) We are thinking about how the fabrication of objects from different cultures might represent a re-colonization of the cultural artifact all over again.

**Some Ways of Thinking About This:** 1) If we were to reproduce a lost city in small, but accurate, scale, how would the individuals who are connected to that city (ancestors, one-time residents, etc.) encounter the fabrication? How do we account for the fabrication of what has been erased, and what are we doing to that erased space by reproducing it as a model? (The difference between what we are doing and, say, architectural modeling is that 3D printers can re-fabricate endlessly, globally, in a multitude of scales--the simulacrum is plastic.); 2) How do we think about our materials? Does reproducing a ceremonial mask in plastic--a material of the industrial age, the "civilized" world--re-colonize the cultures that contribute the ceremonial mask? If it does, what are the conditions of fabrication--who is in control and who "gives permission" for that kind of material transgression?

**Boundaries:** For now, we will restrict our fabrication to what we can find on Thingiverse. But, we should not shy away from printing items that are non-traditional (genitalia, weapons, trigger words), except to say that these objects should be printed out of general view and there viewing should take place in the proper academic context (these conditions, btw, prove the point above--why can't I print a penis in public?)

**One More Thing:** I have started a journaling document in GoogleDocs. We should all contribute to this document whenever we are doing work on the above project. We should record errors, searches, prints, etc., anything relevant to the project. Try to keep records summative and record the date and time of the entry (not necessarily the activities you’re recording, but…)

Here’s the link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CkqzoW0dI8nB6woQ8K01GA07SEiUVG7C300d7waOM04/edit?usp=sharing>