

# Thesis Draft

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In this thesis usage of discarded materials in the process of art making and artwork itself is explored (or researched). How it is used by the artist? Is there any differences with the original items? (In other words using discarded materials or trash has specific (or special) meaning? What are the importance of it?) This is a work to explore the re-usage of trash in artworks. (place or the role in the art practice.)

Actually (It is questioned that) working with trash dictates a life practice, it is a convergence of life and art making. The process effects how one's lives and lifestyle. (But what type of interaction between life and art making process?) (This claim is the main driving force of my artwork which is part of a thesis.)

## 1 Reality of trash

### 1.1 What is wrong with trash?

Huge amount of industrial discarded items spread through the landfills to oceans. They are the result of highly complex industrial production methods. They are not easily disposable items. They live in the nature thousands of years. Most of them packages that are used carry or protect other materials. After real material used these packages became valueless (or useless). (types of trash can be mentioned here, but currently in the artwork I'm using package trash therefore it is more important.) How manage the all this increasing trash that damaging nature? This is the common approach to trash and the main problem. (actually the sustainability problem.) It is not the only problem, It can be thought that it is a loosing the ability to transform new things, alternative behaviors etc. (Instead of creating new opportunities or alternatives, it is a consuming all them and producing huge pile of trash.) (reference Zizek idealization of nature, to love nature is to love trash. live with trash. do not see it as trash actually. Then question is to how to love trash? how to live with trash? can living with our trash enrich (our perceptions, abilities)? how not to see them as trash and useless? Can it be possible with art?)

All these produced materials how much harmonious with the nature? How much animals and plant can be use these discarded items? (Because of complex production methods their recycling requires complex processes again. Some

of them already produced to protect goods from natural factors (like decaying etc.). However how can we protect nature from them?) It is very hard that spontaneously they become harmonious with the nature. However some artists turned to trash into site specific sculptures that are more than trash heap. not discarding but bracing our attitudes turned them to a something that worth it to watch and think about it. (Converting what we create harmonious with the existing system.) Because it is not possible to think that nature will live harmoniously what we created. More likely idea will be we will live harmoniously with what we create.

The issue of trash is not limited with ecological and economic perspective, it has also other dimensions.(draw attention to multidimensionality of this topic, but why? and what are the other dimensions?)

Trash itself is not the only problem, the practice, lifestyle causing it is more important problem. The dynamics of market and flow of objects into it plays important role production of trash.

## **1.2 Throw away culture**

Continuously consuming things and disposing something. It is important concept to understand why trash is trash? (or how it become trash?) Behavioral pattern of throw away culture result trash. (this pattern does not think about the recycling of it.) artworks that are trying to raise awareness is related with this concept.

### **1.2.1 How does it become trash?**

Here purpose is to understand the dynamics that turn objects to trash. By understanding them is provide a road map (or ideas) how to turn trash to something valuable? (The purpose of this thesis is to find a way(methodology, approach) to add value to object using artistic methods?)

### **1.2.2 Comparison of trashes**

The complexity of produced trashes of societies is increasing. For example developed countries that have nuclear plant generates radioactive wastes which highly hazardous for environment is never exist previous societies. Think batteries and so on. Every society generates different types of wastes. Differs from country to country, society to society, ages to ages.

It can be thought that when the complexity of trashed increased to effort to repair, reuse and recycle is increase. Therefore for ones that has no such complex tools it is becoming harder to reuse them. In other words objects become more complex their re-usage becomes less likely.

### **1.2.3 Types of trashes**

Different production process generates different types of trash.

### 1.3 Collecting trash

One of the most important part of the using trash in the artwork (or expressing something, or representation) is to collect them. What are the dynamics(considerations) of collecting them? (easily accessible materials or unique items.) Where to store them? Does it mean that live with trash? In other words collecting trash and using them is live with them? (making them part of life.) After the being part of the are they still trash? Can be thought that it is something that effects the lifestyle. (possessions and trash.) Another question is that how differs collecting trash from collecting other things such as objects that have archival value. What is the driving force? You may collecting it to prevent object being lost. For archival things what you collect is something that has some sort of social use and meaning which is going to disappear. However trash is never disappears, even its amount increasing rapidly. For archival things people have memories with them, but does some applies for the trash? Who wants to keep trash? or who wants to re-see(re-visit) trash again (in a museum for example)?

### 1.4 What might be the meaning of using trash as a medium in the artworks? Questioning trash as a medium for artist

- Some works try to raise awareness the problems that are result of trash. (it threats environment and nature.)
- Some of them reflect people's lifestyle especially throw away culture. As a mirror of current lifestyle.
- Try to find new combination, meaning from the discarded material that are useless anymore and reached end in the specific lifestyle. to explore new approach, new way. subvert peoples ideas about trash and their attitudes by turning materials to the something meaningful (or valuable). trash to treasure.
- Using discarded item to represent other discarded things by the ruling ideology or approach. For example trash can be used to represent refugees. The things that we are trying to discard does not mean that they have no value, instead it means that we have no ability to reveal its potential. In other words refugees have potential but we see them as a players that will change our current system. Therefore it can be said that willing to transform trash to treasure is to requires change of current lifestyle. Rejecting discarding something especially thing that you get value from it is a process and spread through to the ones life.
- One way is to not producing trash. zero trash philosophy. The other one is to transform trash into something else.

- How does it feel that collecting and working on objects that are generally discarded? (experiencing out of common practice, it is open to new explorations...)
- Instead of a world that produce trash, how could it be a world created from trash?
- Combining industrial goods with objects transformed from trash is another way to find a place to trash in the community. It also signifies that trash still has a good quality to used with new materials. Creating composite products from new and reused items. Using valuable thing with invaluable thing. It become more valuable or less valuable. depends on the idea.
- Aesthetics of trash. Revealing aesthetics value of discarded stuff. (Unique visual value. trash portraits, sculptures.)

## 2 Etymology

### 2.1 The difference between reuse and recycle.

The concept of reuse is when a product that is newly purchased is put to another use after the first use is completed. In layman terms an item is reused for the same purpose or another purpose. Reuse is considered to have a massive impact on environment as an item which would have been thrown out, is being given a new purpose. It also eliminates the need to buy another new product, contributing to reduce. The concept of reuse includes anything object that can be used again maybe for a short term as well as long term. An example of reusing would be carrying a cloth bag while going shopping. Since the cloth bag can be used more than once, a person would not have to keep purchasing new paper or plastic bags, hence reducing amount of waste. Reusing can also include using older materials for decorating or other purposes. Plastic bottles can be reused in order to cut the top of and create pen holders. Milk crates can be made into storage compartments. Even donating is a form of re-use, where another person can make use of items that are no longer of use to the person donating them. Salvation Army, churches and various other places hold donation centers where people donate old clothes, shoes, toys, etc that are in turn given to less fortunate people.

Recycling is processing of used materials (waste) into new products to prevent waste of potentially useful materials. The waste is converted into raw materials for a new product. Recycling helps reduce the consumption of fresh raw materials, energy usage, air pollution (from incineration) and water pollution (from landfilling) by reducing the need for "conventional" waste disposal, and lower greenhouse gas emissions as compared to virgin production. Material such as glass, metal, plastic, paper and cloth can be reprocessed and used to create brand new products. Plastic bottles are melted to create new plastic bottles. Even electronics, such as computers, cell phones, TVs, etc can be taken

apart and the components can be upgraded and used for new electronics. A set back of recycling is that it has to be sorted and cleaned before it can be processed into new material. This can add extra costs on the part of the company. However, many companies are still turning to the concept of recycling as in the long run it is cheaper compared to purchasing new raw materials every time. In order to make it easier for recycling, people are usually asked separate plastic, glass and paper from other waste.

## **2.2 Origins of words: waste, trash, rubbish, scrap, junk, refuse, discard, litter**

The origin of these synonyms reveals a whole side of human activity: our history revealed by what we have thrown away through the ages. What were people throwing out when these words were coined?

Garbage is giblets, refuse of a fowl, waste parts of an animal (head, feet, etc.) used for human food. Garbology is study of waste as a social science. In modern American usage garbage is generally restricted to mean kitchen and vegetable wastes.

Waste comes from the Latin *vastus*, meaning empty, desolate, desert, or wilderness, and it's interesting how the Romans called desert any wilderness that wasn't settled, including forests. German has retained the original meaning in *wüste* (desert). *Vastus*, which also gave us *vast*, *vain*, and *devastate*, came to mean a waste of money and ultimately garbage. It is tempting to see a relation with the word *west* – the ancients didn't like the west, where the sun "dies", and associated the west side with death (the Egyptian tombs and pyramids are always on the west bank of the Nile, for instance)(Richard, 2013).

## **3 Rubbish Theory**

Objects have a lifetime and they don't remain same through that lifetime. Their value, usage, location change over time. During its lifetime objects may circulate different markets and values systems like economical value, social value, aesthetic value etc. Especially this cycle has picked up speed with the advent of consumer culture, our most recent technological gadgets becoming obsolete within 3 years. Objects function and value are transformed by relocation and revaluation of objects from one place to the other or one discipline to another. This flow(transition) and transformation theorized with Rubbish Theory by Thompson (Thompson, 1979). Thompson looks at the creation and destruction of value in man-made objects, cultural artifacts and ideas. He notes how an object's economic and/or cultural value diminishes over time rendering the objects worthless or redundant. The theory looks at how some of these objects then regain value, such as antiques or historic homes. It claims that there are three types of objects; transient (normal state, decreasing value, circulating), durable (permanent, increasing value, removed from circulation) and rubbish(zero value, will be destroyed or reinvested for economic and social value). The transition

from transient to durable is only possible firstly transient to rubbish and later rubbish to durable. Further there is a common idea/argument/motto that is "trash to treasure" among artists who uses trash as a medium. Rubbish theory presents a conceptual approach to this argument.

Although Thompson is quite successful categorizing states of objects throughout their lifetime, claimed transitions between states in the theory have some problems. Thompson label some transitions as possible and the others as impossible. "He allows goods only to move from a transient to become rubbish, and from rubbish they can either be destroyed or become durable. Movement in the other direction, from durable to either transient or rubbish, is not allowed in this system" (Meadow, 2011). Further he does not allow move from transient to durable. However Duchamp's fountain breaks this rule. Because urine used as fountain is still functional and have a place in the market. In other word it is not rubbish. This urine with the approach of Duchamp turned to be an artwork. It is one of most influential piece of modern art and one of the best examples of ready-made. After Duchamp's intervention to the urine, it becomes a durable object placed in museum.

In rubbish theory beyond the objects states how it happens transition of objects in practice is missing and Parsons fills this gap by claiming that transition from rubbish to durable are possible with finding objects, displaying objects, re-using objects (Parsons, 2008). (explain details) (It can also be thought that they are the way of value creation.) (turning trash to treasure or something else is a value problem. transforming them creates new a value system? or just finding place existing value system. by the way there is a value theory related with (or inside of) game theory.)

Further another conducted research examines the psychological, social, and aesthetic factors involved in found object and found that ... (Camic, 2010).

## 4 Collage, Assemblage and the Found Object

## 5 Artwork

### 5.1 Why (package) paper?

Easy to collect. Found easily. Thrown out even if it is good quality. Packaging materials are very widespread.

## References

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