

Morality

An interactive painting installation by

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Morality

Moral choices inform production, consumption and therefore aesthetics. How we produce and consume is often governed by the structures in which we operate. We can choose to conform to the conventions, we can choose to change them or not actively participate, and in not doing so we thereby accept the product, the laws, the culture of others. What resources does morality require?

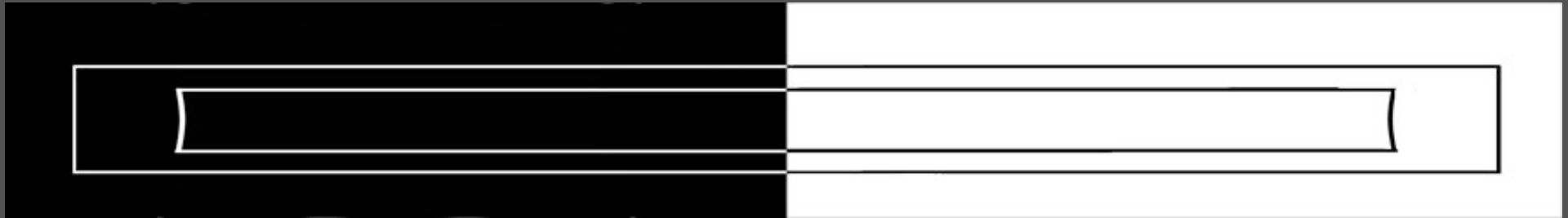
Painting is traditionally a single vision, a solitary, ethical activity. Is morality? Painting is production. How painting operates as commodity is much like any other. It is dependant on the context - the market place, which is frequently the gallery. How the gallery/market operates dictates how it is consumed.

The interactive painting 'Morality' models the significance of making a mark, the conscious choice of participation and production and acknowledges the paradox that freedom is governed by form. As with the internet and television the means of engagement is owned and managed and informs the experience. Put another way - how the question is asked influences the answer. The art is selection.

The following pages are the instructions for the installation.

Morality - The Template





The template provides a design that is painted onto a wall. The template can be used on various sizes of wall with the design of the image being from the floor up and retaining the dimensional relationship of the central motif even if the scale of the wall varies i.e. the space at the top and the sides can vary.

Morality - The Template



Morality - Dimensional instructions for installation

The Rules

Visitors are asked to participate in painting morality. They are given a choice of using black or white paint.

If they choose white paint they are asked to wear a black lab coat and black gloves. They are given a brush that has been dipped into the white paint by the attendant who is wearing a black lab coat and black gloves.

They are then instructed to paint on the left side of the wall.

They are asked to paint within the motif and to paint only using vertical lines.

If they choose black paint they are asked to wear a white lab coat and white gloves. They are given a brush that has been dipped into the black paint by the attendant who is wearing a white lab coat and white gloves.

They are then instructed to paint only on the right side of the wall.

They are asked to paint within the motif and to paint only using vertical lines.



Morality - a graphic representation of the work once painted

Guidelines for gallery attendants

Participants are encouraged to comply with the rules but the rules are not enforceable.

Only one visitor is to be painting at any one time.

Queues may be required and should be established on both sides of the room.

One queue for white, one for black.

If participants decide to paint on the wrong side or to paint outside the motif these actions are not to be met with disapproval from the gallery staff. Therefore the instructions are to be given in such a way that compliance is implied. It is expected that drips will occur delivering paint outside the motif, onto the floor and onto the clothing provided – coat and gloves.

The participants are expected to use the brush only once and not have access to the paint kettle again. If the participant attempts to refill the brush or remove the kettle for further painting this is not to be prevented.

At the end of each day after closing, the motif is to be re-established.

Any rebellions outside of the motif are to be painted out with the appropriate paint.

This is not to be done in public view.

An aesthetic judgement will be required with regard to lines that are inaccurately painted or

lines that may not be within the motif line (due to lack of skill) but were intended to be compliant.

The edges can be reinstated as rigorous hard edges over painting splashes and slips or a variable edge can be left as long as the overall shape is still defined and evident.

Brushes to be cleaned out. No new replacement brushes.

At the start of each new day the paint kettles are to be topped up evenly.

The number of people that use white and that use black are to be counted.

The figures from the day before are to be posted within the gallery.

Morality - The guidelines

Materials

Black and white paint - enough to paint the template and for daily use.

This will obviously be dependant on the number of visitors.

2 brushes - same size. The size of brushes will be dependant on the scale of the installation - curator's judgement applies.

2 white and 2 black lab coats - supplied.

2 pairs of white gloves - supplied.

2 pairs of black gloves - supplied.

Paper shoe covers if required.

2 paint kettles - one for black paint and one for white.

2 plinths - the height of the plinths to be no higher than the bottom edge of the central motif at 30 cms. The width and depth are to be equal but governed by the size of the paint kettles.

The kettles must be able to be placed safely onto the plinths.

Where possible the floor beneath the painting should be the uncovered gallery floor.

Morality - materials for installation

'Morality must be action..'

'Morality, with the full support of logic, abhors the private.

Salvation by works is a conceptual necessity. What I am doing or being is not something private and personal, but is imposed upon me in the sense of being identified only via public concepts and objective observers.

Self knowledge is something which shows overtly.

Reasons are public reasons, rules are public rules. Reason and rule represent a sort of impersonal tyranny in relation to which however the personal will represents perfect freedom. The machinery is relentless, but until the moment of choice the agent is outside the machinery. Morality resides at the point of action. What I am 'subjectively' is a footloose, solitary, substanceless will.

Personality dwindles to a point of pure will.'

'Freedom is not the sudden jumping of the isolated will in and out of an impersonal logical complex, it is a function of the progressive attempts to see a particular object clearly.'

Extracts from the 'Sovereignty of Good' by Iris Murdoch.



Morality - contained and complete

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