

南亭歡迎你

WELCOME TO NANTING



ASSIGNMENT PUBLIC ART

09-11-09 > 27-11-09

REMEMBERING NAN TING (记住南亭), a MONUMENT (纪念碑 [jìniànbǐ])

BASED ON YOUR THOUGHTS ON PUBLIC ART I GATHERED THE FOLLOWING POSSIBLE CHARACTERISTICS OF A PUBLIC ART WORK:

- > FREELY ACCESSIBLE
- > LOCATED IN PUBLIC, COLLECTIVE, COMMUNAL SPACE
- > INTERACTS WITH DAILY LIFE
- > INTERACTS WITH THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT
- > INTERACTS WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC
- > HAS ELEMENT OF SURPRISE
- > DECORATIVE
- > COMMEMORATIVE
- > COMMEMORATING AN EVENT IN HISTORY
- > COMMEMORATING A PERSON
- > ENHANCES THE EXPERIENCE OF PUBLIC SPACE
- > IS NOT ONLY DECORATIVE
- > CONNECTS PEOPLE WITH SOCIETY, PEOPLE WITH NATURE
- > ORDINARY YET ALSO EXTRAORDINARY
- > INFORMATIVE
- > ENTERTAINING
- > EDUCATIONAL
- > FUNDED BY PUBLIC FUNDS
- > SOCIALLY ENGAGED
- > NOT INDIVIDUALISTIC AUTHOR-BASED WORK
- > RELATIONSHIP WITH SOCIETY
- > PROVOKE REACTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
- > PROVIDES COMFORT, RELAXATION, DISTRACTION

INTRODUCTION

University Town is a strange, artificial environment:

it's not really a cityscape, nor is it a village, it's a *habitat* 栖息地 [q x di] that has some features of the city, but feels quite different. It feels isolated from reality.

It has roads, bridges, parks and sports facilities. There's public transport, there are shopping areas with banks, restaurants, fast food, and other services. There's dormitory housing, there are school buildings, school canteens, museums and, finally, there are four villages.

These last villages on the island will disappear very soon.

The villages provide a kind of public space that relates much more closely to the city, than the rest of the island does. Narrow chaotic streets, intimate small spaces to eat and or shop in, lively activity in the street, family life, various generations sharing the same public space. (how often do you see elderly people or young children on campus?).

Nan Ting Village is a place where many students of the GAFA go to hangout, barbecue, play pool, drink beer. Some students have their own small enterprises there. The villagers run restaurants and shops, there's a market selling locally grown fruit and vegetables, locally caught fish. Villagers sit under the trees, playing chess, gossiping, smoking.

What will be left of any street life when Nan Ting, as it is now, is gone?

Where will the villagers go? What will be left of the history of this island? And how will campus life be without the little bit of liveliness and chaos that Nan Ting offers?

THE ASSIGNMENT

REMEMBERING NAN TING VILLAGE, a MONUMENT (记住南亭 纪念碑)

Make a monument that commemorates life in Nan Ting.

This monument can be an object, a space, a performance, a publication, a website, a film.

It has to meet the following criteria:

- > visible in the public space of Nan Ting or the GAFA campus
- > incorporating at least one of the following media and or tools:
 - video, monitor, screen, projection, sound, light, sensors, the web
- > apart from these media you can use any other media that is relevant to your work, for instance print, performance, t-shirts, photography, food and much much more.

LOCATION

- > Nan Ting Village or
- > GAFA campus or
- > or both

STRUCTURE

work in teams of two or three.

PLANNING

WEEK 01 - RESEARCH AND SKETCH

Spend a lot of time documenting Nan Ting for example through photography, video, sound recording. Make sure you document both day and night life there. Interview the people there.

What are their stories about Nan Ting, about the changes? You could choose to focus on the daily life of the people there, or just on the physical space. Or on the way public space is used. Make portraits of specific people that work or live there. Go to the library, or online to find out about the history of Nan Ting.

WEEK 02 - SKETCH AND DO

WEEK 03 - MAKE AND FINISH | Presentation end result November 27th