

In conversation with José Gracia Olivia.

<https://josegarciaoliva.com/>

- PREPARATION -

Before talking to José I looked at his personal websites and reviewed his projects while keeping myself to find an answer to my concerns when doing my own projects through his works...

What really interested me was that his works are planted through a cultural background in a very blended, natural way. Which I felt missing from my own enquiry.

- THE DIALOGUE -

The overall conversation focused on the cultural and social context in work, the "Commons" and certainty of work.

It was quite impressive that José's works are usually based on a cultural concept or Social context. And they were interesting just by looking at it. I asked him how to embodied these cultural or social features light weighted within his (seemly heavy) concept.

José Un Toque (one of José's project), it is basically the bells from ice cream trolleys that the sellers carry around in some regions.

And Games people play, have you seen that toy? That is a thing very famous in Venezuelan, and that's the toy like how many times you have to do it to make it right... And you hit yourself so badly, because it is a wooden toy and you play with your hand... It was that kind of uncertainty that you control it or not, I think that uncertainty keeps people waiting. And thorough waiting, it was that specific period that some political things happened in Venezuelan, and that moment of waiting, the government wanted you to be waiting in a queue, you don't have the basic needs, you cannot be productive.

These objects I use as a metaphor, and the selection of objects is with **the idea of the complex, like what are the objects we use that quite often in these areas that can represent everything that we (been through)...** Do you know the concept of "The commons"?

José mentioned the term "The Commons".

José Use the commons, ordinary objects or sense. This could become the symbol. Decontextualising them. Also, think about interactions with the audience, with the commons as the trigger. Interactions allow **messages to be revealed**.

I have realised that all his works are based on very deep and intersectional research, research that has multiple meanings (time, history, politics etc.) The way José research, the way he build up his works based on the complicated context, made the works feel certain and stable.

We had also talked about having to rise a problem in a work but do not want it to be heavy that almost like pushing people to understand certain issue. José's response helped to build up certainty in my own perspectives towards my work:

José I think it is just about how you talk about it and **how you frame it**. The work could be quite confrontational, but that does not mean that is has to be. You know. I think this is all about the **certainty that how you present your work**.

What this conversation is really beneficial for my enquiry is that I learnt to re-evaluate and think about framing the topic I brought up, not by presenting them. Also to think about searching for a symbol for my topic, for "the messages to be revealed".