

MANIFESTO

UNWALLING

by
Romilie Calotes

"To confront poverty today we need FIRST to intervene into our own fields of specialization, recalibrating our own practices, ...in order to understand and engage the reorganization of formal institutions and their protocols. ...link top-down and bottom-up interests to mobilize an unprecedented project of redistribution of both resources and knowledges (and compassion) across metropolitan, regional, and continental scales."

Cruz, Teddy, and Fonna Forman, "Changing Practices: Engaging Informal Public Demands." *Informal Market Worlds* (2015): 207.

"San Diego-Tijuana is our "geography of conflict" and the site from which we challenge walled-worlds everywhere, organized around political repression, surveillance and control, the criminalization of immigrants, and an expanding gap between wealth and poverty... committed to telling very different stories about life in this cross-border region, grounded in the experiences of those who inhabit it.

...Borders cannot stop environmental, hydrological, viral,

economic, normative, cultural, ethical, and aspirational flows. They cannot stop the winds that blow. These informal and often invisible circulations shape the transgressive, hybrid identities and urban practices of everyday life in border regions such as ours."

Cruz, Teddy, and Fonna Forman. "At the Border: Unwalling Citizenship." *A/D/O and e-flux Architecture*, 2019-2020. <https://www.e-flux.com/architecture/at-the-border/358908/unwalling-citizenship/>

"The future of cities today depends less on buildings but more on the fundamental reorganization of socio-economic relations;" ... "the best ideas for this renewal will not come from enclaves of economic power and abundance, but from sectors of conflict and scarcity. there an urgent imagination can really inspire us to rethink urban growth today."

Stevens, Philip. "Teddy Cruz Visualizes the Impact of Conflict on Design." *Designboom*. May 18, 2014. <https://www.designboom.com/architecture/teddy-cruz-political-equator-border-conflict-05-18-2014/>

A **manifesto** is a short, punchy declaration of desires and demands, provocations and protests: a call to action and/or a call to pause, think and act differently.
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MAELSTROM

WastetoWishes

by
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Through comedy and almost satirist method, our story follows the life of Bea, a single-use plastic bag short lived life, like many plastic products in our day-to-day life. This Maelstrom takes inspiration from Teddy Cruz and Fonna Forman's creative approach to working with bottom-up grassroots initiatives in marginalized communities with top-down government and university groups. Their project is most developed in the Tijuana-San Diego area, in the University of San Diego community. Their -partnership allows them to engage fun-informative visual representations to express their intent and message towards a wider community. An example of a developed project is the UCSD Community Stations "Casa Familiar", at this station they hold an annual theatre show for students to advocate for current and immediate issues they face locally. A memorable story was done by one student on the subject of eco-advocacy. This play was inspired after seeing dirty fruits in trees in the vicinity of the US-Mexico border where numerous idling cars pollute the air while waiting to cross the man-made "border". Similarly, the maelstrom presented here displays an urgency to express the threat humans place on the environment.

In this case the focus is on plastic waste polluting our planet. This notion of "ignorance is a bliss" or "business as usual" is a critical concern that needs to

be addressed immediately. As we follow the storyline (left-right, top-bottom), Plastic Bea first shops at the grocery store where she buys lots of products encased in single-use plastic containers or bags, while she is a plastic shopping bag as well. She then goes home to her family, and as she unloads the grocery onto the table... this causes her to tear. Following this, she was tossed into the garbage bin by the "human" hand. This raises the question of "where do our garbage go?" Is it to an island on a vacation, or are they buried underground with tombstones to commemorate their short lives? But luckily a local organization, with young-local volunteers is turning wastes into wishes by collecting plastic wastes and repurposing them for exciting new goods.

Expanding on Teddy Cruz and Fonna Forman's advocacy, the intent of the maelstrom is to serve as a reminder and an inspiration for viewers on the topics of the environmental impact of ignorance, and human waste on the planet we all share.

*If not now. when?
If not us. who?
"It's not mine". yOURS?*

A **maelström** is a powerful whirlpool – a dangerous swirling of the sea that sucks everything down into its watery spiral. In this seminar, the maelstrom is a model for architectural theory, imagination and agency – an integrative and creative force – a risky and revelatory mode of panoramic vision.