

Date: Wed, 17 May 2006 12:33:04 +0100 (BST)
From: "Eric Van Hove" <evh_transcribe@yahoo.com>
Subject: Re: locker
To: "Eric Van Hove" <evh_transcribe@yahoo.com>

Sue Williamson wrote:

Hi Eric

The concept is this:

My work is often about media and the interpretation of events by the public through the media. Also, I often try to build an interactive element into my work, to make the viewer a participant as well as an audience.

Background:

So: yesterday, judgement was given in a case that has gripped the media for months - the ex-president of the country Jacob Zuma was accused of raping a family friend who had gone to him for advice and stayed the night at his home.

It has required a very careful reading of the evidence to decide whether the accuser had led Zuma to believe it was consensual sex, or not. An important element in the case was that she changed into a kanga - a printed cloth - for the night. Which Zuma said led him to believe she was inviting sex.

Yesterday, Zuma was pronounced innocent, to the frustration of womens groups and others. Another important factor was that the accuser - who has never been named - is HIV positive, and Zuma is vice head of a council promoting AIDS awareness, but he did not use a condom.

The piece:

The piece is based on the idea of the children's game of pass-the-parcel, and of uncovering and working through layers of evidence.

Viewers will open the locker to find a large parcel wrapped in newspaper with news about the Zuma trial. Instructions pasted on the inside of the door in English and Japanese will tell the viewer that he/she may unwrap one layer and must then return the parcel to the locker.

Each layer will be sealed with specially printed vinyl Zuma stickers, and carry a label initialled by me which will tell which number the layer is. That newspaper sheet with its stickers will be for the viewer to keep. I anticipate there will be about 50 layers.

In the centre of the parcel will be a cardboard gift box containing something which will be for the final viewer to keep.

The locker itself:

The sides of the lockers will be pasted with black and white copies of photostats of the news stories about Zuma, and on top of these, there will be a row of the Zuma stickers. I will send a sketch tomorrow.

At the back, I would like to have a backlit panel of Zuma's face. I don't quite know how to handle the lighting thing. The image could be printed on to a 30 x 30 cm sheet of translucent perspex, or vinyl, with a battery driven lighting source behind. I do think some form of lighting is very important.

Thus when the parcel has been unwrapped or stolen there is still something to look at.

I would send you: the parcel, extra stickers, and the back panel. I could send you files for the black and white sheets to stick on the sides. Or maybe even the file for the back panel as well.

Let me know what you think.

Sue

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