

Social Engagement via Artistic Activism:

A Case Study of Cheng-Long Wetlands International Environmental Art Project

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Abstract

People usually refer art to the embodiment of aesthetics, but is art only associated with principles of beauty? This paper highlights the relations of art to activism, identity enhancement, and social empowerment. Specifically, it illustrates the process of artification/artistic signification via the making of an environmental art in Cheng-Long, Yunlin. During the process of the environmental art project, the tripartite of people: Artists, volunteers, and residents live together for a month, during which they learn from each other and create artistic works via communication and interaction. In so doing they co-construct the meanings of the project and works, change the landscape of the space, and enhance participants' identity of the place.

Keywords: Environmental art, artistic signification, community reconstruction, artistic activism