Dekumstruction Artist Statement – The Long Version

Buster Simpson, Peg Butler, November 2, 2010

A prototype bike corral which also serves a sculpture pedestal, a sculptural installation and a stormwater management system.

The bike corral prototype, is a system of structural columns that serve as bike racks and as a pedestal to support an overhead base for sculptural components. As designed, ten bicycles (or more) can lock up to the corral at a time. With modest retrofitting, a double decker bike system can be added. The street side columns include integrated bollards.

For this first installation of the bike corral system, the sculptural portion of the project is titled "*Dekumstruction*"and is a concept that invokes a vision of a future less dependent on the automobile and petroleum-based economy. The sculpture functions both as provocateur and healer and approaches a potentially divisive issue with a sense of humor. The Corral will be located in a spot that used to be an on-street parking space. The car has been lifted up, overhead, out of the space to allow room for bike parking. The concept suggests making way for modes of transportation that are more environmentally friendly and repurposes the carbon-based car as an iconic relic.

Dekumstruction's sculptural canopy will provide cover for the bikes and bicyclists. The sculpture will be created from sliced and pieced together oil drums, portions of a car frame and living plants. The car frame literally becomes a framing device for ecological transformation and presents a barebones abstraction of the automobile. The canopy will be a living life raft carrying a remnant of a petroleum-based economy. Oil barrels lose their power with the car sitting on top "gone to seed." Vegetation will eventually grow up through the "car" to remediate its impact, historically and visually. The oil drums and the car frame will be galvanized steel. The plants will provide habitat and oxygen, potentially sequester carbon, and will slow down storm water run-off.

Infiltration planters to the north and south of the bike corral platform slow down and absorb oil-infused street water and the canopy itself is part of the stormwater management system. The oil drums contain soil and plants and act as a cross between a flow-through planter and an ecoroof. Stormwater from the roof of an adjacent building comes to the sculpture by a pipe connected to the building's downspout and flows from the south end of the sculpture to the north end. Along the way, the stormwater is slowed and some is collected by the roots of the plants. The water that makes its way to the northern end of the canopy will be directed from the sculpture to the northern infiltration planter where an oil drum receptacle receives the falling water, performing as a musical instrument, the stormwater beating a rhythm on the drum's lid.

Dekumstruction Artist Statement – The Short Version

Buster Simpson, Peg Butler, November 2, 2010

"Dekumstruction" is a concept that invokes a vision of a future less dependent on the automobile and petroleum-based economy. The sculpture functions both as provocateur and healer and approaches a potentially divisive issue with a sense of humor. The Corral will be located in a spot that used to be an on-street parking space. The car has been lifted up, overhead, out of the space to allow room for bike parking. The concept suggests making way for modes of transportation that are more environmentally friendly and repurposes the carbon-based car as an iconic relic.

Dekumstruction's sculptural canopy will provide cover for the bikes and bicyclists. The canopy portion will be created from sliced and pieced together oil drums, portions of a car frame and living plants. The car frame literally becomes a framing device for ecological transformation and presents a barebones abstraction of the automobile. The canopy will be a living life raft carrying a remnant of a petroleum-based economy. Oil barrels lose their power with the car sitting on top "gone to seed." Vegetation will eventually grow up through the "car" to remediate its impact, historically and visually. The oil drums and the car frame will be galvanized steel. The plants will provide habitat and oxygen, potentially sequester carbon, and will slow down storm water.