

Robert Cervera Amblar

Artist's proposal for 'From Work to Text',
BA CCC Degree Show, 17th-23rd June 2011.
Working with curator Emily Burrett.
Version: 3rd April 2011.

I. Approaching the space

The Innovation Centre gallery is an ex-exterior space. It used to be part of an open undercroft, all rough concrete flooring and poorly lit forgotten corners. You only need to look at the gallery from outside, standing on Fisher Street, to realise that its clean, evenly lit, carpet tile-covered area was created by enclosing a chunk of hard, industrial no-man's land.



I'm interested in this contrast between interior and exterior, and by extension in the processes we set in motion to claim open spaces by enclosing them (as seen, for example, in the long history of Enclosure -or *Inclosure*- Acts in the United Kingdom).

Civilization, it could be argued, is based on this process of enclosure, which creates controlled, sanitised, commoditised spaces of which the art gallery may be the most sophisticated example. I'm interested in drawing attention to this subject using a sculptural language.

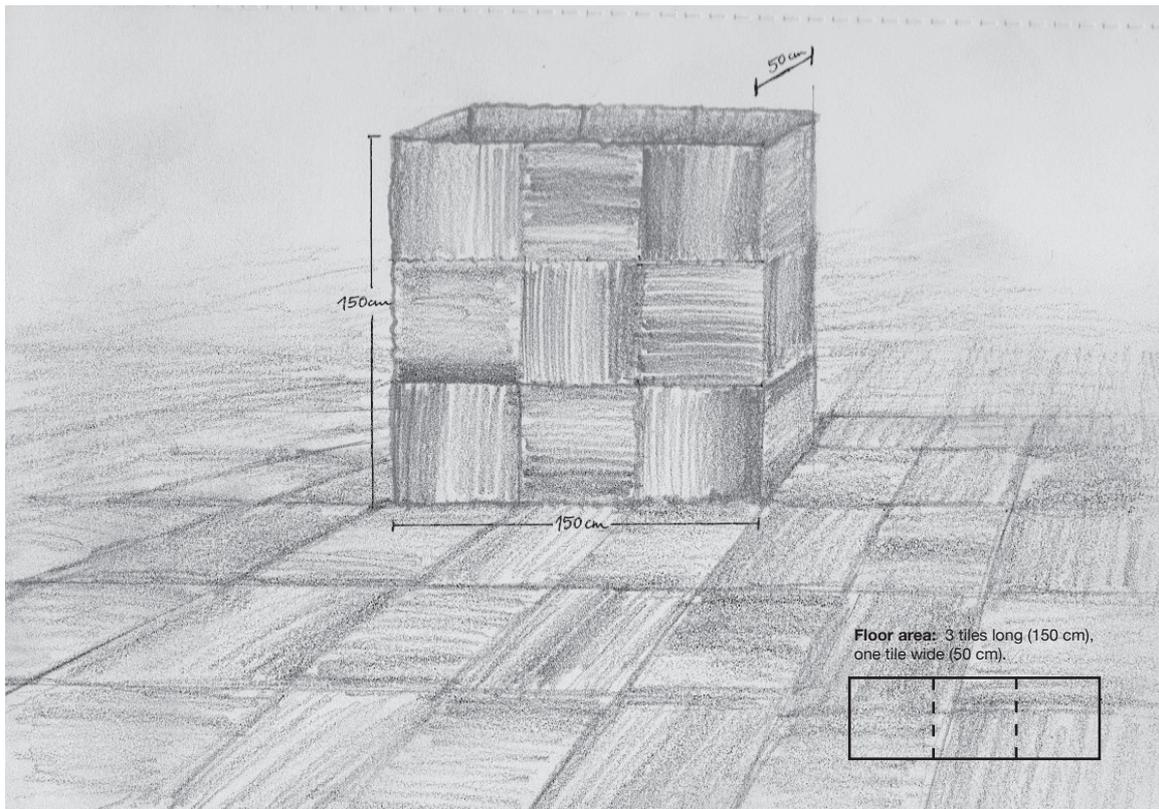
II. Proposal: *Disclosure*

My intention is to create an enclosure within the enclosure of the gallery, using materials already in existence in the exhibiting space: the carpet tiles that cover the floor.

Underneath these carpet tiles lies a concrete floor, not dissimilar to the one found outside the gallery, in the undercroft area.



I will remove three of the carpet tiles in the centre of the room and build a 3-tile high (1.5 metres) enclosure around it. It will be possible to look inside the enclosure and discover the concrete floor.



This enclosure within a enclosure, operating like a double negation, becomes a disclosure of what's underneath, beyond the thin layer of comfort and civilization that makes the Innovation Gallery an interior space.

III. Stages of work

1. Construction of internal metal (steel) structure: welding and finishing (off-site).
2. Bringing structure into gallery to fix carpet tiles onto it with heavy-duty duck tape.
3. Placing of sculpture, checking stability and reinforcing if needed.
4. Dismantling sculpture and repositioning tiles on the gallery's floor.

IV. Time and cost estimate

- 1 day for construction of the internal structure (off-site).
- 1 day in the gallery for further construction and installation.
- Half a day for dismantling sculpture and restoring floor to its original state.

Cost of metal structure: to be confirmed, but under £50.

V. Special requirements

1. Tiles

Tiles in the gallery are fixed very lightly to the highly porous concrete floor (probably with glue). They mostly keep each other in place like pieces in a puzzle. Removing and repositioning them is an easy task that doesn't seem to require extra equipment, but I would like to check this with the architect or building's manager.

Also, I will need **21 extra tiles** to build the sculpture (in addition to the **3 tiles** I will remove from the floor and also use on the sculpture). Again, I will need to speak to the manager or architect to locate these tiles (there could be remaining ones from the original batch used for the floor). Alternatively, I could sample these 21 extra tiles from the gallery floor itself, creating an additional area of 'disclosure' of the concrete floor.

2. Technical assistance

I should be able to complete all stages of work mainly on my own, although Pierpaolo's help will be welcomed during stage 3 (placing of sculpture).