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"THE CAGE", 2006.

Site Specific Installation – Urban Intervention

The installation is a metaphor for the enclosure and confinement of our spirit. The spirit in its process of evolution looks forward to achieve wisdom, balance and enlightenment.

The artwork alludes to the Nichiren Daishonin Buddhism. It aims to symbolize "The Lotus Sutra". This Sutra deals with the similarity between our Buddha hood condition and the lotus flower; although it is born in the mud, attached and in darkness it is able to bud with splendor and beauty.

The piece talks about manifesting the Buddha nature that everybody has within. Buddhism states that all human beings are capable of Enlightenment.

This is an interactive installation. It invites the spectator to enter cross and exit the cage. It proposes to experiment and feel the enclosure and the traps of our spirits and, to transmit a message of freedom and Enlightenment as possible ways in our contemporary objectified and materialistic culture.

In accordance with the Buddhist philosophy of Nichiren Daishonin, our spirit is attached to eight conditions that prevent people from advancing along the right path to Enlightenment. These eight conditions or 'eight winds' as they are called are: PROSPERITY-DECLINE-DISGRACE-HONOR-PRAISE-CENSURE-SUFFERING-PLEASURE. Even some of them may be seen as positive aspects of our life, and goals we deeply search, (Prosperity, Honor or Praise) they involve emotions and strong changes that can mislead or distort our lives. Others simply put us into deep states of depression and sadness (Decline, Disgrace, Censure, and Suffering).

In addition, in the Buddhist philosophy of Nichiren Daishonin, the spirit in its way to evolution dwells through ten worlds of emotional and life states: HELL-HUNGER - ANIMALITY - ANGER - HUMANITY - HEAVEN - LEARNING - REALIZATION - BODHISATTVA - BUDDHAHOOD.

As the public interacts with the artwork they will find references to these Buddhist concepts. The purpose of the installation is to meditate on these pathways to wisdom or ignorance, and to lead the public to reflect on his/her own mind states.