

Unrealised Potential

ARTIST: D A Turnbull

TITLE: MOTH

Outline of Unrealised Potential

During the industrial age at the height of Queen Victoria's reign some insects such as the Peppered Moth underwent Industrial Melanism, a reference to the genetic darkening of species in response to pollutants. The moths changed their colour to blend with the soot blackened trees caused by pollution that Peppered Moths rested on. Due to a more "Greener" time they have now started to revert back to their lighter colour. The term Industrial Melanism and this change are also used to show a form of Darwinism and evolution.

Attraction to light: There are a number of theories as to why moths are attracted to light including infra red. Moths frequently appear to circle artificial lights, although the reason for this behavior remains unknown. One hypothesis advanced to explain this behavior is that moths use a technique of celestial navigation called transverse orientation.

The proposed art work plays on both theories of the moth's camouflage and the attraction to light. The work is to us a billboard that is lit at night with fluorescent tubes. The tubes are replaced with ultraviolet tubes. On the billboard itself will be the word MOTH, the word itself will be about 100cm high and positioned off centre at the top of the board near to the lighting. Each letter of the word Moth will be made up of numerous individual silhouettes of a moth and printed in 'invisible effect' UV Reactive paint.

This means that during the day the MOTH word will not be visible, but at night when the UV lighting is switched on the MOTH word will become visible.

Suggested Artists

See above

Signed on behalf of D A Turnbull by Unrealised Potential, (Chavez-Dawson, Ely & Harris).

Date

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