

67 Mustang Appropriations Iron Oxide Drawings

The 1967 Ford Mustang is American nostalgia. Rust appropriated from the car to create drawings symbolizes the crumbling remains of a grandee decaying. The drawings and the car are American nostalgia. Appropriating the decay of crumbling rust and grim into drawings that now hang on the wall around the rebuilt car parked on the floor form a thought about how American nostalgia erodes over time and is left for waste with the possibility to rebuild into something new.

The interior of the 1967 Mustang is painted with black paint appropriated from the artist Sol Lewitt Wall Drawing #704. The appropriation of the discarded museum material enters into the artist's continued genre of appropriation.

The Rust drawings display a car that is vulnerable and in decay. The drawings use of rust is hidden in smooth and coarse layers of hydrated iron oxide on paper showing the crumbling beauty of American nostalgia.

The actions and care taken during the disassembly and assembly of the engine, transmission, differential, suspension, steering, electrical and interior pay homage to car mechanics, autoworkers, car designers that inspired me.

The 1967 Ford Mustang was bought in 2001 and stored for 17 years in my Grandfather's and eventually brother's barn. In 2018 I started to take apart, clean and fix the entire car. In 2021 I reassembled the car and used the debris for my drawings. The drawings and car are the byproducts of this work.

Early thoughts

Initial idea for the Project.

In my new project I am challenging myself to create a new installation appropriating a 1967 Ford Mustang.

In doing this I am setting a few rules that limit me in what I am able and unable to do.

1. The car must function in the end as a simulacrum of art.

Videos and drawings will be compiled documenting the transformation. A book of the project will be written as part of the final installation.

Drawings will be drawn using particles taken from the car like grease, rust, and oil.

Parts will be taken off cleaned and custom painted, signed and treated like a piece of art and then reassemble back onto the car.

The book will talk about the process of gathering information, performing the tasks of restoration, and talking about processes used in the transformation.

The 1967 Mustang?

If I am taking apart a piece of the car I am going to have to clean it paint it and reassemble it.

I am using rust, oil, grind and pieces taken away from the car as I clean it as a medium to draw and paint with. The car becomes appropriated. Life is appropriated. One piece to the next... brakes, leaf springs, differential, drive train, chassis, transmission, engine, radio, each piece leading to the next.

Scratch, cut, grind rust to find metal. Sand, wipe, wash, and clean metal. Chemically convert the rust, then prime and paint the metal. Paint the metal. Make it nice and shinny.

Pieces that come off are documented. Cleaned, drawn, and painted. Photos and movies show a story of labor.