Morning Meeting – Canvas

By Mabe Fratti

*There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide; that he must take himself for better, for worse, as his portion; that though the wide universe is full of good, no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given to him to till. The power which resides in him is new in nature, and none but he knows what that is which he can do, nor does he know until he has tried.*

Interactive art is a perfect way to engage others in an activity. Art also projects creativity and lets people have fun and enjoy time. There’s also a really interesting message hidden in art that can actually help, if observed and studied, to understand something. It all depends in how it’s done.

The meaning of this activity was based in rules of dialogue and authenticity. All projected in a canvas. The tools necessary for the activity were:

* Brushes (Enough so people can have options)
* Paint pots (the number of pots is equivalent or more to the quantity of people participating)
* Canvas
* Paper (to put under the canvas and don’t make a mess)
* Paper to write what is going to be drawn.
* Chronometer
* Good Music (To call inspiration)

Make a circle and put the canvas in the middle, so everyone can see what is happening. Then, write on the paper what you decided to draw.

The **Tools Rubric** is:

* You can use the brush you want, your hands or whatever to sketch in the canvas.
* Each one picks a color and that is the only one you will use throughout the activity
* Keep tools clean, so others can use them.

The **Game’s Rubric** is:

* One person paints at a time
* The next person has to relate his sketch with the previous. (Be aware of the other’s paintings)
* You can **only** mix colors with the fresh sketches that are on the canvas. That means, you can only use your color.
* Be silent
* Don’t exceed your painting time over thirty seconds
* It’s not urgency, so don’t just jump off and make whatever. Think about it first!
* Stick to what has been decided to be painted.

Start, and let someone start the count downs. Respect the time you have for painting and enjoy what is being created. The game will stop until all of you stop, when all of you realize there is nothing more to be added. This will be visible because no one will approach the canvas anymore. Also, consider that people will need time to think, so if there’s a big space of time and everyone looks like they are thinking it’s not that the painting is done!

The meaning of this activity can be lots. Here are some few I brainstormed while creating the rules. I recommend to you to question the reason of the rules, and try to find a meaning.

* Consider the ethics of dialogue that are being used while painting and how they project visually in a canvas.
* The color means your authenticity; you can be creative with your own way. (This doesn’t mean the color of your aura is black, you just decided to use that color, this is a matter of meaning).
* Being present and aware of what others are doing can give you an understanding of what he’s trying to express.
* The unpredictability of what is being done is actually a way of understanding how complex our minds actually are. But if you notice, still there was a decision of accomplishing something, but it was done in a really different way than expected!