

Juan Aizpitarte alters what is easily recognizable by reconfiguring the meaning or function of its surroundings. He works methodologically to displace social and architectural codes by modifying the spatial or acoustic references particular to the sites in which his projects are developed. All operational modes – whether conceptual, comic, poetic, symbolic or fictional – are envisaged here. Nothing is overtly fixed, leaving the viewer free to mentally reconstruct his or her own version of the project. His references come from everyday speech as much from the theatre, allowing different worlds to encounter and interact with one another. The transformation of the space happens through the public. The progressive transmutation of the site designates, signals, delimits and identifies the space, turning the visitor into the potential agent of that process.

For this to happen, the visitor's readiness to engage is also what is at stake in the work. Because, as the artist says: "I'm interested in the way visitors position themselves in the work and, in so doing, contribute to a certain intensification of the present... Engage or don't engage / Play the game or choose not to – that too is the question.

Cécile Bourne Farrell

