

Gaiță Loredana

Cover it roughly - BETA 2022

'Covering', understood as a process of appropriation and reenactment, is an everyday act and method, used either involuntarily or by choice. Progress is almost always achieved through incremental changes that build on something already done, said, written, and certainly thought of. Covering, seen as imitation, forms the foundation of learning. However, to contribute to knowledge in any field, covering should aim to add value to the existing state of affairs. In the arts and cultural fields, covering is a process that alters either form, meaning, or both. By adjusting shape, function, or discourse, covering becomes a creative endeavor involving highly skilled and knowledgeable operations, aimed at achieving a specific impact.

Starting from this year's Biennale theme, 'cover me softly', this essay argues that the 'covering' process used to tackle urban issues should always involve an act of resignification, making it relevant for a new context that may differ spatially, temporally, or both. Even when maintaining the same geographical coordinates, the context of usage, display, or communication of the object being covered is never the same as that of the original object. Using as a case study the openly affirmed 'coverings' of temporary interventions in public space created for the 4th edition of the Timisoara Architecture Biennale – BETA 2022, I will analyze how curatorial decisions impacted the public's perception, building my argument around the concepts of adaptation and resignification as minimal criteria for relevant and knowledge-producing urban interventions.

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