



#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Kwan, Miwon; "One place after another: notes on site specificity," in *Space, site, intervention; situating installation art*, ed. Erika Suderburg; Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000.

Schutz, Alfred; "Symbol, reality and society," in *Collected Papers*, ed. And intro. Maurice Natanson; Hague: Martinus Nijoff, 1971.

Gadamer, Hans-Georg; "On the natural inclination of humans toward philosophy," in *Reason in the age of science*; tr. Fredrick G. Lawrence; Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1981.

#### CREDITS

The 4sidedleaner was assembled in collaboration with David Speller and Mariel Calvo.

The design of this catalogue was created in collaboration with Edna Calvo.

INTERVENTION AT CENTRAL STATION-BONAVENTURE  
4SIDEDLEANER  
Nilsa Calvo

In contemporary society movement is the basis for a way of living. The condition of the urban individual can be defined as nomadic. Being nomadic, does not necessarily relate to someone who has no fixed residence, neither to someone who roams aimlessly. In this case, the contemporary urban nomad is someone who travels purposefully from place to place. This nomadic condition takes place while he spends time outside the house. Between the spheres of work and home he is constantly in transit getting to and from destinations. Movement is part of his everyday activity.



In this site, where movement is evident to all the senses, my attention was shifted to those instants when people were motionless. These instances can range between 5 to 15 minutes and usually take place while people wait for the commuter trains to depart. During that period of time, people are either sitting down on the individual sittings located all around the station, or most commonly, are packed together standing in front of the staircase that leads down to the trains.

By reflecting upon these accustomed situations, I decided to intervene on this particular occasion of stillness by means of an object that would re-structure the perception of the site. The object would invite to a reflection in the meaning urban nomads give to the time of waiting and of rest, and on the impact this creates in their life. The main intention in creating such object was to allow people to slowdown, sit/lean, contemplate, and listen so that they could engage in the experience of a moment of rest. It would also change the detached urban nomad's behaviour, for it would move him to relate to other people and to the space that surrounds him.



In Montreal, the means of transportation for the urban nomad, who lives in the suburban areas and works or studies in downtown, are commonly commuter trains and metro. Central Station-Bonaventure is the place to where he arrives every morning and from where he takes the train back home every night. Central Station-Bonaventure is a place of unrest and fluidity. Life in this public space could be described as a choreography of bodies hurriedly moving among sites. The environment involves with noise of dragging objects, footsteps, and voices over the microphones. Indeed, its context is defined by mobility.



While sitting or standing still, people usually read, some listen to music, some eat, or drink coffee or water, others are immersed in their own thoughts, but rarely do they look at or speak to each other. It seems that these ways of isolation are the best solutions for everyone during those apparently uncomfortable moments.



The object I designed is called 4sidedleaner, it is meant to be used as sitting, leaner, holder, etc. It has four different sizes of "leaners" that swivel out. To understand how it works one must play along with it. As such, it demands the physical presence of the individual and his direct participation. It could also be used by more than one person at the same time. This provokes interaction between strangers. As a result, it would allow us to see ourselves together with others in a common space and time. People will experience time and again the reality that comes from seeing and being seen by others.