

## Artful Trash Management

Important ongoing efforts to remove trash from the rivers (and elsewhere) offer opportunities for reflection on our more general relations with trash. It is generally assumed that trash has its place - and that that place is best out of sight...

Artful trash management assumes the reverse: that trash reflects important truths about our culture - suggesting we become more conscious, deliberate, and refined in our relations with trash.

The Tireless Project distinguishes itself from other "River Sweeps" in finding reuse for tires it collects. The question of what to do with other stuff removed from the rivers remains...

There is something unsatisfactory about investing in the removal of trash which finds its place in the - for most - out of sight land fill: *re-moving trash...*

While re-moving trash may be one destiny of our age we might consider rendering our trash artfully visible where we have no viable re-use for it .

We as a culture, American "culture" in particular, have been pursuing a path of production that tends to aggressively trash the earth, its creatures, and "other" cultures. American globalization, the production of products, and the production of a certain styles of consumption, each proliferate trash in their wakes. Our symptomatic disregard of the material discards our consumer culture produces mirrors the philosophical pretension our culture clings to: *that thinking is somehow independent of embodiment*. Such make-believe philosophies can be transformed through the power of belief making strategies. The theory and practice of flesters is one such strategy (see Exhibit A).

Flestering embraces the "functions" of discarded things: moving beyond utilitarian meanings toward proliferative and promiscuous senses of use *and meaning*. Flestering offers intellectual and visceral experience of what is at stake in our perception - promoting the possibility of transformative ways of seeing being and doing - employing humor and other means of visceral engagement: fostering ecological and ethological sensibilities...

