ABSTRACT

Title: MARISOL BY JOSE RIVERA: SCENIC DESIGN

JEREMY W. FOIL, MFA, 2008

Directed By: Associate Professor Daniel Conway, Department of Theatre

The purpose of this thesis is to provide a record of the scenic design process for Marisol, produced by the Theatre Department and performed in the Kogod Theatre at the University of Maryland.

The attached packet contains visual research used as inspiration for the design, preliminary models and sketches that track process, technical drafting, and photographs of the performance. Marisol is set in Spanish Harlem during the early nineteen nineties and transforms to a post apocalyptic environment and a world turned upside down. I created a space in the round that uses raw metals and concrete to symbolize the location through simple line and shape. The set is purely realistic at its core and dissipates into a surrealist form on the outer edges. Through the form of magical realism the ground becomes the sky, a subway lamp becomes the moon, and a fire escape becomes the portal to the heavens.
MARISOL BY JOSE RIVERA : SCENIC DESIGN

by
Jeremy W. Foil

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Advisory Committee:
Associate Professor Daniel Conway, Chair
Professor Helen Huang
Professor Faedra Carpenter
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1 RESEARCH IMAGES:

In the design process, the collection of research is one of the first steps in creating a world to hold the play. The following will contain historical research along with visual research that speaks on my emotional responses to the text. The research also serves a purpose to portray atmosphere, mood, tone, texture, line, and shape in a visual way.

1.1 Environment:
The design team immediately decided to place the play in the round with audience members viewing on all sides. I began my process by looking at buildings and streets in New York City in the areas of Harlem and Spanish Harlem.
1.2 Subway and Graffiti Research
The First scene of the play takes place on the subway in New York City. The scene is very brief and we never return to the subway through the rest of the play, but the subway sets the tone for the remainder of the play.
1.3 Marisol’s Apartment

Marisol is a middle class woman who places more importance on her clothing and style than she does on her living environment.
1.4 Mood, Tone, Atmosphere, and Texture

The following images portray the tone of singularity that is felt in the text as well as a mood of loneliness that Marisol is encountered with throughout the play.
1.5 Reflections and Refractions
In the second act of the play Marisol’s world is turned upside down. She recognizes her surroundings, but only vaguely. North is south and up is down. The following images show my ideas of those eerie reflections and how the normal can be warped.
2 Sketches and Preliminary Models
The following images illustrate the various steps of the creative process. They are organized in chronological order of my process. They are exploration of shape, style, space, lines, directions and colors.

First Photoshop Rendering of my idea of the space.
MODEL NUMBER ONE 1/4” = 1’-O”
MODEL NUMBER TWO 1/4” = 1’-0”
3 Final Model

The following is the final $\frac{1}{2}'' = 1'-0''$ model. This model served the scenic artist as the painter’s elevations for the show to be painted from.
4 Draftings
The following plates illustrate the technical drafting for the show. The drawings were used by the scene shop to build the show and place it in the Kogod Theatre.
Foam textured and painted to look like cement

used plexi, sparkle bobbinet, or metal scraps left from collages will be placed to fill in frames to act as projection surface

used plexi, sparkle bobbinet, or metal scraps left from collages will be placed to fill in frames to act as projection surface

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Foam carved, textured and painted to look like brick
STAP STEEL FRAME

GOLD CROWN WITH JEWELS TO BE FOUND

Hinges to allow the box to open from the bottom and crown to fall safely to the ground

CROWN BOX

Scale: 1" = 1'-0"

DYE HOOKS OR EQUIVALENT TO CABLE UP TO GRID. BOTTOM TRIM IS TO BE AT 10/6"
5 Production Photographs

The following images are representative looks of the show shot during the show.

Angel during Marisol’s dream.
Scene 5: The Office

Ice cream man threatening Marisol in the office
Lenny, June, and Marisol in June’s apartment.
Opening of Act II when the woman with furs threatens Marisol as Man with scars enters.

Man with scars holding his magnet to the moon.
Homeless man is threatened by the Skin head, right before she lights him on fire.
Marisol begging God for his mercy on her.
Marisol and Lenny at the grave site of all the dead children.

Skin head about the set Marisol and Lenny on fire, before she is revealed to be June.
The Angel turning a human into pure salt.
Bibliography


