Art and Human Rights: Photography & *Los Desaparecidos*

Stephanie Wood
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An intellectual says a simple thing in a hard way. An artist says a hard thing in a simple way.

(Charles Bukowski)
Mary Beth Tierney-Tello

PHOTOGRAPHY and WRITING in LATIN AMERICA
Double Exposures

Albuquerque: University of New Mexico, 2006
Mary Beth Tierney-Tello: On Photography about the Disappeared

• make the absent present, represent the missing
• whether specific individuals or generic/symbolic
• e.g. repurposing the ID photo (from social control to political protest)
• “defiant ‘memory work’”
• a witnessing, a testimonial of a life
• a guardian of memory
• an antidote to erasure
• photos can also mediate the memory
Gustavo Germano
“Ausenc’as” (Absences)

• making the absent present
• a witnessing, a testimonial
• a defiant guardian of memory
Gustavo Germano
“Ausenc’as” (Absences)

- making the absent felt/missed/humanized
- making them family members
- presenting them as innocent?
“Ausenc’as” by Gustavo Germano

(applying some of the interpretations of Tierney-Tello to the work of Germano)

• Constructions to emphasize the person’s absence
• Exaggerating the family’s loss (unique/personal)
• Making explicit the missing persons’ humanity
• Ignoring question of guilt/implying innocence?
• Repeating the theme over and over (quantity)
• Homogenizing the experience (symbolism)
• To infuse us/society with a conscience
Graciela Sacco, “Between Us,” 2010
Museum of Memory, Rosario, Argentina
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Museum of Memory, Rosario, Argentina

(why eyes? intentional: viewer’s reflection superimposed?)
Empty Chairs and a *Cueca Sola*  
(a couples dance where partner is missing; Iquique, Chile)
Stenciling the Faces
(Mexico, Ayotzinapa Solidarity March, Oct. 2014)

(repurposing the ID card photo; from social control to political protest)
Candles for the Ayotzinapa 43: solidarity installation in Oaxaca in front of a church
Merging Ayotzinapa with Tlatelolco
2 Oct. 1968, Mexico
(by Yescka)

black & white = historicity,
gritty documentation
“Silence will never have the last word.”

Ariel Dorfman,  
*Speak Truth to Power*
ONE MILLION BONES

MAKE A BONE. STAND UP TO GENOCIDE. RAISE AWARENESS.

One Million Bones is a collaborative art installation designed to recognize the victims and survivors who have been killed or displaced by ongoing genocides and mass atrocities in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burma. The one million bones collected from across the country and installed on the National Mall offer a visible petition, to remember victims and survivors, to bring awareness to the issue and to call upon our government to take much needed and long overdue action.

Sunday Nov 6: 2 - 5 pm
Saturday Nov 12: 3 - 7 pm

Highlighting genocide in Sudan, Burma, and the Congo.

Lead artist: Naomi Natale, Italian-born, lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico
One Million Bones, D.C. June 2013
K-12 Classroom Activity
Okay for all ages? Is humor okay?
Iris Brosch & Fiora Gandolfi Herrera
Italian Artists’ Tableau Art (Theatre) against Femicide
(Italy, Jan.–Aug. 2012, 90 Deaths)
Iris Brosch & Fiora Gandolfi Herrera, Italian Artists’ Tableau Art against Femicide

(Tierney-Tello: beware of sensationalizing, beware of “voyeuristic looking”)

images: too objectionable? age appropriate?