

Parasitos Urbanos (Urban Parasites)

By Gilberto Esparza

About the Artist

Gilberto Esparza was born in Aguascalientes, Mexico in 1975. Recently he has been working with electronic media focusing on different kind of transformations that technological development generates once it is integrated in everyday life of the urban ecosystem. His work is based on the recycling of consumption technology. His work has been shown in several countries including *Electronic Art Festival VideoBrasil* (Brasil), *Lascas Festival: an actual Mexican art in Québec* (Canada), *Internacional Workshop Km 0* (Bolivia), *International Electronic Arts and Video Festival Transitio_Mx 2005* (Mexico), *Dorkbot Cd. De México* (Mexico), *1st Trienal de Puebla PLATAFORMA 06* (Mexico), *Laboratorio de Arte Alameda* (Mexico), the *Carrillo Gil Museum* (Mexico), *MUCA Roma* (University Museum of Sciences and Arts, Mexico City). He won the ArtFest award given by the WTC in Mexico City, Glass Bienal award by the Glass Museum in Monterrey (Mexico), he received an honourable mention at the Bienal de Yucatán (Mexico). Recently he also won the VIDA 9.0: New Productions Award Sponsored by the Telefónica Foundation (Spain) and he is part of the Program Support for the Art and Media Production and Research of Multimedia Center of the Nacional Art Center (Mexico). The work of Gilberto Esparza can be seen in his blog: <http://gilbertoesparza.blogspot.com>

About His Art

To see *Parasitos Urbanos* (Urban Parasites) of Gilberto Esparza is to pass through the lens of the future, and believe that the most disturbing images from the paintings of Hieronymus Bosch have come true. It makes us believe that in a way we are entering the *Gate of Hell* in Dante's *Inferno* or a science fiction novel.

The physicality of the pieces are not like the microscopic viruses that we are not able to see in the new invented sickness widespread globally, nor are the visible the viruses made to affect our computers. It is true that not all parasites are micro-organisms. However Esparza's parasites are depictions of living organism. In this case they have not evolved in nature but in the creative mind of the artist. The devices are designed to obtain the energy need it to move or emit sounds. At first glance they seem to be part of the system where they are installed but once people get more attentive to their movement, they realize their functions. In his work Esparza is not only working with the dark side of technology creating this sort mechanized and parasitical creatures living in the big city, in one of his most recent creations, he developed *Planta Nómada* (Nomadic Plant), which consists of a mechanism that survives on used waters and remains of waste.

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Technical descriptions:
Author: Gilberto Esparza



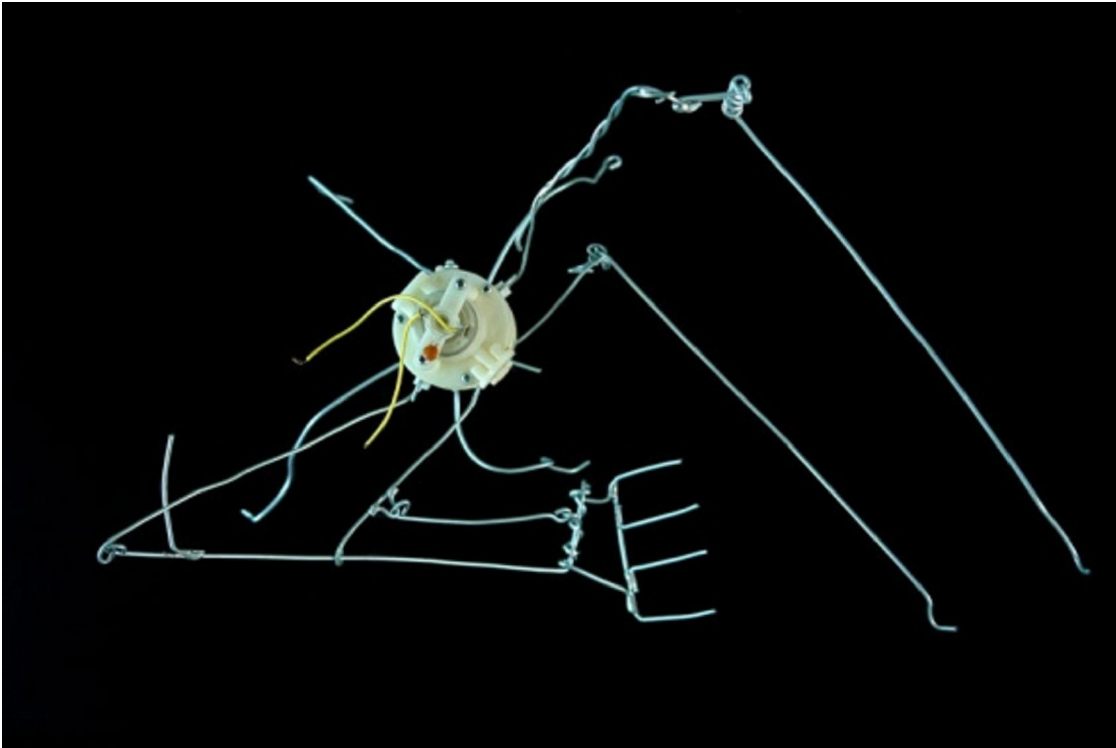
Title: ***autotrophic inorganic***

From urban parasites project

Technique: acrylic spheres with electronic controlled circuits extracted from toys.

Measures: Sphere 30 cm. of diameter

Year: 2007



Title: ***ppndr-s***

From: urban parasites project

Technique: toy engine, galvanized wire and technological waste

Measures: variables

Year: 2007



Title: ***dblt***

From: urban parasites project

Technique: engine, recycled pieces, servomotor, acrylic, aluminum, Microprocessor, sensors

Measures: 45cm x 30cm x 10cm

Year: 2007



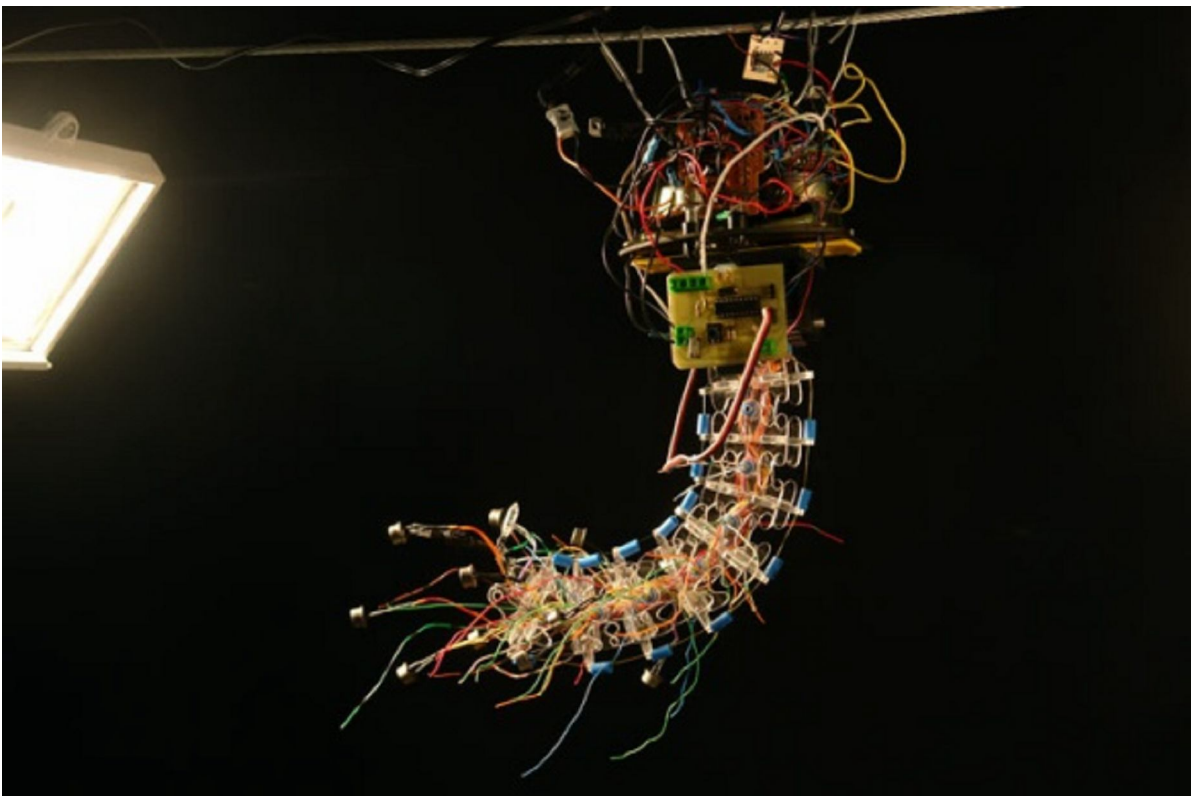
Title: ***clgd***

From: urban parasites project

Technique: engines, PVC tubes, aluminum, microcontroller, sensors

Measures: 50cm x 15cm x 12cm

Year: 2007



Title: *mrñ*

From: urban parasites project

Technique: engine, nylon thread, speakers, acrylic and microcontroller

Measures: 45cm x 15cm x 15cm

Year: 2007



Title: ***flies***

From: urban parasites project

Technique: mobile phone engine, copper wire and solar cells

Measures: variables

Year: 2006



Title: ***fotovoltaic ectoparasites***
From: urban parasites project
Technique: engine, acrylic, solar cells
Measures: 40cm x 30cm x 15cm
Year: 2009

Reynaldo Thomson
Editor