

Assignment 3
ARCH 532
McGill University

“Louis Borges’ Parable of the Palace” by Dana Mastrangelo

Made in video format due to the present circumstances, the labyrinth displayed was intended to be a performance art where the audience faces a wall and the contents in the video are performed behind them projecting onto the wall. The audience is exposed to the shadows displayed in front of them, as well as the sounds heard behind them from the execution of the piece. A match is lit and the shadow of what appears to be a tree in a controlled circumference of scarlet lighting is burned down. The sound of the match in this case are the words of the poet that obliterate the emperor’s palace (represented by the tree). The palace is encompassed in a controlled set of red lighting (within a circle) that then burns accordingly due to the burning of the tree. The circle provides the controlled direction of lighting in a linear fashion. When everything is burned, all that remains is smoke and a large projection of light which is no longer guided into a straight line, but instead projects outward to fill the whole scene. The interpretation made here is that the truth of the palace is unveiled, and the labyrinth is lifted. What appeared to be a beautiful palace guided by linear avenues was in fact obliterated once the poet spoke to its entire understanding. Therefore, the means in which the straight avenues are effectuated become obliterated as well, unveiling the truth: the linear paths were in fact so gradually winded that they formed circles. This curvature and bending of light are revealed after the scope is removed. The red lighting speaks to the end of the story, where the deceitfulness of the palace is revoked, and destroying the palace. Leaving all but the knowledge of what was formed through “God’s Script”.