



Swap meet fundadores. Ritual of the weekend

What happened in Fundadores swap meet in Tijuana?

**October 8, 9, 15
and 16 of 2005.
9:00 AM- 4:00 PM**

"The clothes shop" was at the Fundadores swap meet for two weekends, placed like any other stand. Here the squid for silk-screening would be one more part of The Shop.

The visitors would be able to acquire a shirt or bring their own clothing and decide where they wanted to print the designs that were made in the workshops. There was a broad selection of colors and designing options. They could also buy the purses, pants and the shirts that were a result of the workshop. The clients could also modify their garments thanks to the presence of Koty, the seamstress.

The routines of the place were very clear: mount the stand at 7:00 AM, open at 9:00 and close at 3:00 or 4:00 in the evening. This is the largest swap meet in Tijuana; it's the center

point of many popular streets of the city and usually people go there even though they aren't looking to buy anything.

Every stand owner knows each other, which is why it was impossible not to notice the glances when they found out that a new clothes stand had just opened in the swap meet. When we had just opened there was a mistrustful air towards us and also from us towards them. But coexistence made them realize we weren't a threat and they had a better sense of us.

The loud music in the stands, the constant smell of typical Mexican food along with hot dogs, hamburgers and the sounds of the public's voices pulls you in to that world and instead of being an outsider, The Clothes Shop was lost and mixed into that place.



THE VISITORS

Usually the people that come, live in the neighborhoods near the swap meet. A lot of families visit the swap meet like a ritual, buyers like to go to see if something catches their eye, teenagers go looking for clothes, videogames, music, etc. All of them with the same purpose: pay the lowest amount possible.

The buyers are willing to haggle, ask a million times the same price, act as if they weren't interested, leave and then, come back to see if the seller changed his mind, but never pay for something they think is worth less. This forced us to sell the garments and impressions for way less than what they cost.

THE CLIENTS

Were most loyal, were kids and people younger than 18 years of age. They were there both weekends, everyday with bigger bunches of clothing on which we printed a piece of The Clothes Shop. The owners in

the neighbor stands were also wearing their Clothes Shop shirts, and it was common to encounter people with a shirt or a garment showing the Clothes Shop designs.

THE PARTICIPANTS

Of the workshops were present at times. They talked with the public, explained where the ideas came from etc. Gabriel, the musician, was always silk-screening clothes, Yvonne the gothic girl, generally was drying them, and Koty the seamstress, was in charge of the modifications.

All of a sudden at about 3:30 in the evening the swap meet starts to become empty, the murmurs goes lower, the smell of food almost disappears and the music turns off. Everything turns to silence and we have to disassemble the stand. The heavier objects get covered up so they don't get moved and the lighter more valuable things go home to be used the next day and to remount the theatre.