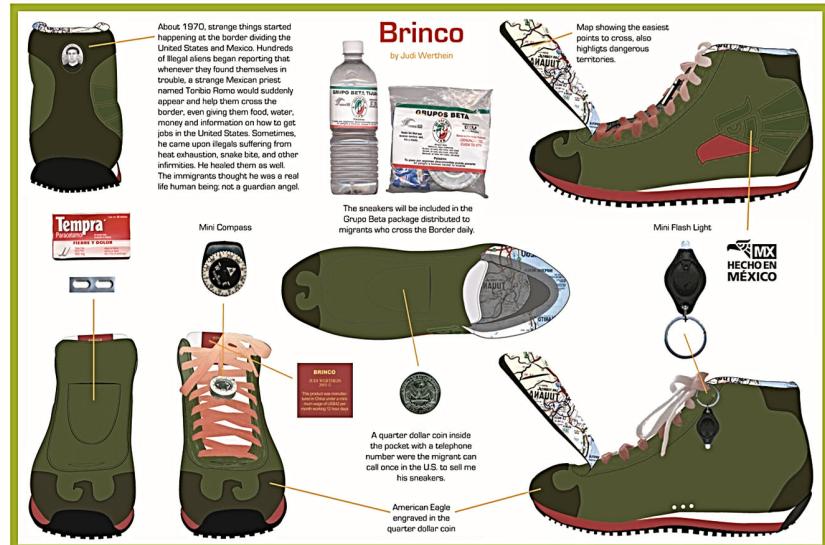




Brinco/ Judi Werthein/ This work was produced in collaboration with the migrants who cross the US Mexico border everyday. In line with the conceptual integrity of the piece, it was fabricated by maquiladora workers in China at HengJiaLi Shoes Inc, a shoe factory in Nighei/ Production> Producción/ Daniel Martínez · Márbara de León · Joy Decena · Zlatan Vukosaviljevic · Esmeralda Ceballos

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Research documentation>
Documentación de proceso



Judi Werthein (Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1967) Lives and works in Brooklyn> Vive y trabaja en Brooklyn

Interventions> Intervenciones/ Curator> Curador: Osvaldo Sánchez/
Associate Curators> Curadores asociados: Donna Conwell and Tania Ragasol

www.insite05.org

Presentation/ Distribution: August 28 – November 13
Location: Blends, 726 Market Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Presentación/ Distribución: 28 de agosto – 13 de noviembre
Sitio: Blends, 726 Market Street, San Diego, CA 92101



Diseno> Design/ Sirkat



JUDI WERTHEIN
Brinco

Brinco/ Judi Werthein

Curator/ Donna Conwell



Research documentation by the artist> Documentación de proceso del artista

"Brinco" design> Diseño de "Brinco"



Brinco/ Judi Werthein

Curador/ Donna Conwell

■ With *Brinco* (*Jump*) Judi Werthein has created a project that links migrants' efforts to cross the border illegally with the increasing global corporatization of goods and labor. The project is a uniquely designed sneaker, trademarked *Brinco*. The design of the shoe is inspired by information and materials that are relevant, and could provide assistance to, those illegally crossing the border. Underscoring the tensions sparked by the global spread and mobility of the *maquiladora* the sneaker will be manufactured in China. In counterpoint to its potential for utilitarian use by migrants, the sneaker will be sold as a one-of-a-kind art object and will be available in the United States during *inSite_05* in Blends, a high-end sneaker store located in downtown San Diego. In a single object Judi reveals the contradictions between fashion, competition in the manufacturing industry, and migratory flows, themes that lie at the heart of the dynamics of labor geography in today's world.

■ Through the creation of a limited-edition sneaker line, Judi has fashioned an object that embodies a complex and sophisticated critique of consumer culture. By inserting the sneaker into a high-end footwear store, an international art event, and migrant support agencies, Judi has brought into collision three interdependent components of the prevailing economic model of circulation and exchange. *Brinco* traces a relationship between the economic manipulation of the art object, which is circulated, exchanged, and collected as commodity and as symbolic capital, and brand fetishism. As consumers have become fixated on labels that are equated with certain lifestyles and social status, the construction of urban identities has become increasingly centered on brand affiliations. By employing an iconography associated with Mexican migrant workers and Chinese assembly plant workers, Judi has created a branding strategy that addresses the social separation of labor from consumers. She has co-opted this prevalent model of group identification and supplanted it with new dynamics of association between global labor and consumers who increasingly want to understand the conditions under which their clothing and other consumables are made. (D.C.)



Logo design for "Brinco">
Diseño del logo de "Brinco"

■ Mediante la creación de una línea de zapatos tennis de marca, Judi conformó un objeto de moda que encarna una crítica sofisticada a la cultura de consumo. Al insertar estos tennis en dominios tan complejos y disímiles como una acreditada tienda de zapatos deportivos, un evento artístico internacional, y la gestión de agencias de apoyo a migrantes, todo a un tiempo, Judi hace colisionar tres componentes del modelo mercantil prevaleciente, de su circulación y de sus dinámicas de intercambio. *Brinco* traza una relación compleja entre la manipulación económica del objeto artístico, en circulación como mercancía y como capital simbólico—por intercambio o por colección—y el fetichismo de la marca. Estando los consumidores aferrados a marcas que son equiparadas a ciertos estilos de vida o estatuto social, la construcción de identidades urbanas ha estado cada vez más relacionada con las afiliaciones a marcas. Al emplear una iconografía asociada con los trabajadores migrantes mexicanos y con las plantas ensambladoras chinas, Judi subraya una estrategia de posicionamiento de marca que pone de relieve la división social existente entre los consumidores y las condicionantes de producción. Judi ha cooptado el modelo prevaleciente de adhesión grupal y lo ha suplantado con nuevas dinámicas de asociación entre el trabajo global y los consumidores, muchos de quienes quieren entender las condiciones bajo las cuales sus ropas y posesiones han sido fabricadas. (D.C.)

