

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

This work is many things at once: an interactive collage of music and photography, an artistic commentary on the main themes of the metamorphosis, and a creative way of answering some of the essential questions we posed in class.

The 5 volumes of the work reference several key aspects of the passage and of the novel. For one, the piece references one of the most important contextual elements that lead to Gregor's dehumanization: his role as provider of a home. It is a role that is of greater importance to him than anything else, and it is the thing that he laments the most when he is transformed into an insect. He is more anxious to get to work (which, as is central to another inquiry, the novel exhibits through frequent exclamations and an oxymoronic downplaying of his situation) than about actually being an insect. In that respect, the novel also touches on another relevant inquiry regarding the fragility of human relations. Gregor violently exclaims, "please, don't make my parents suffer", but in the end it is those parents and his sister who emotionally abandon him. They are both the cause that inspires him to work to the point of dehumanization, and that aggravate his condition. Furthermore, the novel also touches on the very nature of what it means to be human. Gregor is a cockroach, and yet, he is more preoccupied by going to work than by his metamorphosis. What does this say about his human identity? Has he lost part of his essence in the context of his provider role? That might be the case to a great extent: where he once housed genuine and complex emotion and thought, Gregor is now a nine-to-five creature dedicated to the mundanities of work above the greater subtleties of the human experience. That is one of the great tragedies of his transformation.

*Key questions addressed:

- In what ways does Gregor contribute to his own dehumanization?
- In what ways does Gregor's environment and those around him contribute to his dehumanization?
- What does the novel suggest about the nature and fragility of human relationships?
- What stylistic aspects of this story do you find most compelling or important? How do they contribute to meaning and effect in the story? Use specific examples to support your answer.
- What is the effect of Kafka's matter-of-fact assertion of the bizarre incidents with which the story begins? How does Kafka keep the way it came to pass from becoming a major issue in the story?