

## *privation and excesses*

Open to the street, a display of 750,000 pennies, laid by hand, leaching honey at the edges, the scent of copper and honey faced by the smell and gaze of three sheep, a figure seated, hands wringing over a hat filled with honey, two mortar and pestles grinding, teeth and pennies.

The budget for this project, \$7,500, was obtained in the denomination of 750,000 pennies. They were laid into a skin of honey to define a 45'x32' rectangle on the floor. Facing this display a side room housed 3 sheep, a person sat dipping and wringing their hands into a felt hat filled with honey and two motorized mortar and pestles ground elements that make reference to human systems: one abstract and one biological. One ground a bowl of pennies; the other, a collection of human teeth.

At the completion of the project, the pennies were cleaned and counted, and then used to cover the expenses of the project. The remaining money was donated to fund a symposium supporting the collaboration between artists and educators in the San Francisco Public School System.

–Ann Hamilton