This presentation is an explorative study on how materiality in design becomes the distinctive aspect of design practice compared to artistic practice in politically engaged creative actions.

The paper takes a short historical perspective on the notion of materiality in design, aiming to unfold how materiality itself can change the practice and definition of design. By looking to recent critical practices within design discourse, the paper examines the importance of materiality in critical practices in design as a distinction to critical artistic practices. To this end, the paper takes two examples of critical practice; one within design field and the other known as artistic work both performing on the subject of “undocumentedness.”

Therefore the paper tries to examine how much design is different from art in politically engaged works and particularly on works related to undocumented immigrants. Finally it argues that materiality of design generates new forms of action-interaction in coming communities.