

SOME REMARKS ABOUT THE RECENT WORK . JESÚS PALOMINO .

To whom it may concerns:

Some small remarks:

Basically, the fake and fictional device-machine that I have been presenting in my recent exhibitions are specifically designed to purify different substances.

The first time (**Pančevo, SERBIA and MONTENEGRO**. May 2004) was used as water river purifier or healing water machine. The city of Pančevo was bombed by the **NATO** in its campaign to halt **MILOSEVIC'S** repressive reaction against **KOSOVO'S** independence movement. The petro-chemical factories were easily targeted and huge amounts of highly toxic substances were directly broadcasted in the local environment. The result of that war military action was pollution everywhere including, of course, soil, water, air and persons.

My reaction to that information was to propose my filter. A filter to collect the poison out of the water in the local river called **TAMIS**.

The formal look of the piece and the remarkable comment coming out of the installation is about **DISPROPORTION**.

The disproportion between historical-political realities and the human and political position of the individuals. So, the unique way out after my attentive watching was to propose a weak and lowtech purifier machine to clean up the effects of the ecological disaster at the area of Pančevo. The piece gave the impression of a very rudimentary laboratory in which the poison would be collected and eliminated after being properly processed.

The piece was, as well, the humoristic desperate image of the **INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL SPHERE** struggling with, crashing with **HIGH POWER SPHERE**.

The mind of the fictional character that supposedly designed the filter could be: **AS A LAST RESORT, I SHALL DO IT THE BEST THAT I CAN, even with such a machine !!!**

And again the disproportion appears to present a fragile appearance of a domestic machine that it is more a desire, a deep necessity, than a real possibility.

The rest of the machines-devices that I have been presenting are designed for:

- 1/ To purify historical realities loaded of full **NEGATIVITY**;
- 2/ to produce **CIVIL RIGHTS**;
- 3/ to give information about casualties in the military campaign of **IRAQ**;
- 4/ to fight indolence and apathy through poetry and political ethics.

(I published two WAR INFORMATION affiches: the first by November 2004 and the second April 2005. The numbers present the proportion of casualties in every side. The first number belongs to professional military of the Coalition and the second belongs to the Iraqis civil casualties at that time. Information source: the **PENTAGON** and **IRAQ BODY COUNT**).

I have presented three times the filter with the aim of getting rid of the memories and leftovers of our Spanish fascist History, European extreme right wing History and all kind of deep historical cruelties in our political life,

The machine was exhibited in my hometown (**SEVILLE, South of Spain. ANDALUCIA**), in Madrid

(the capital of the State) and finally in the first historical capital of the dictatorship, proclaimed during the **CIVIL SPANISH WAR** in 1.937 (second year of war) as the most " **HEROIC CITY THAT BRAVELY FOUGHT AGAINST THE COMUNIST EVIL.**"

The machine was trying to purify the **NEGATIVITY** of the **HISTORY** that you could see reflected in the books and documents that functioned as **INPUT** of the device. So, you could see some books and documents on a table (**INPUT**) that were connected to the healing-purifier device (**MACHINE**) that finally should collect the poisons into some bottles (**OUTPUT**).

The books comes from my own private library and you could find material so diverse as:

- > Books about the civil spanish war and the repression during Franco's dictatorship;
- > books about the **shoah**. Genocide and destruction of the european jewish community;
- > the war in the Balkans;
- > the gipsy genocide during the second worl war;
- > reports about inmigration coming from subsaharian countries to Europe;
- > the train ticket that I bought in my trip to Auschwitz;
- > the spanish fighters and civil population exiled after the spanish war;
- > etc.

In Caracas, Venezuela, because they have at these moments a very high social and political tension, I proposed to present a machine to produce **CIVIL RIGHTS** (again as a discursive metaphor) in order to create spaces of social negotiation and justice as the only way of a social and human balanced development.

The INPUT, as the title said, were three books:

- > a book of poetry about war, pacificism and political poetic- engagement with the reality by the israelite poet **YEHUDA AMIJAI**;
- > a book about political theory: " **THE HUMAN CONDITION**" by Hannah Arendt;
- > a book of the popular oral tradition of Venezuela with many proverbs and sentences of common sense and easy wisdom.

That was the INPUT in Caracas.

I think that not many people enjoyed that work.

Recently, I have presented in Spain a **FOUNTAIN** of water to provocate **CURIOSITY** in the spectators-drinkers. Asking: **WHY EDUCATION IS IT NOT THE PRIORITY ?** That's a very noteworthy question to ask all around.

And then, a project wich is a whole neighborhood that attempts to generate the image of a **FAVELA**.

Along with this instalation inside the **MUSEUM**, we presented a two months radio broadcast in a local and communal radio station that belonged to an **ONG** specially dedicated to fight **RACISM, RACIST VIOLENCE, ANTISEMITISM, HOMOPHOBIA, SEXIST VIOLENCE**, etc.

One time per week, and during one hour, we talk about **SOCIAL ISSUES** and **CULTURE**. We invited specialits to talk about schizophrenia and theater therapy, youth and violence, art and education, cultural policies, art criticism and society, inmigration and integration, etc. **IT WAS REALLY GREAT !!!** The broadcasts were run by young journalism students.

Finally, the most recent work, a very serious work... **JE, JE...** It's a joke !!! A big green light device to fight **APATHY, INDIFFERENCE, INDOLENCE, DEPRESSION, LAZYNESS...** etc. **AGAINST RELUCTANCE** proposed a day of **MEDIA** and **FOOD FASTING** with the aim of recovering willingly the appetite for life and good political arts.

The fasting proposal was open to every visitor of the exhibition. The date proposed was February 1st.

No **T.V.**, no **RADIO**, no **NEWSPAPERS** or **INTERNET** that day. No food between 7'00 h. and 12'00 h.

Only water.

I got the impression that not many people either enjoyed this piece.
I'm still not very sure about what I made there.

That's it.

I hope these comments can be useful to bring some more light to these works.

You can ask via e.mail any kind question.

JESÚS PALOMINO .

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