

MEDIA FILTER & BIG COMPASS

**Jesús Palomino at the Locker Plant. Marfa, Texas.
December 21. 2006**

For the past several years Jesús Palomino (Seville, 1969. Spain) has been creating exhibitions which include a variety of structures - machines, devices or laboratories as he describes them. The primary function of each of these machines is to filter out negativity and transform it into new possibilities. With this in mind, he has created installations and initiated projects around the world, including:

1. Filtering the poisoned rivers Tamis and Danube in Serbia & Montenegro. An ecological disaster, the consequence of NATO bombings trying to halt Milosevic's military campaign in Kosovo, 1999. (Serbia & Montenegro, May 2004)
2. Filtering historical traces of Franco's dictatorship and the political negativity of his regime. (Seville, Nov. 2004; Madrid, April 2005; Burgos, Oct. 2005)
3. CIVIL RIGHTS generating machine entitled:" POETRY, POLITICAL THEORY & COMMON SENSE: TRANSFORMER ". (Caracas, Venezuela, February 2005.)
4. "AGAINST APATHY" encouraging cultural and political activism in the Spanish art scene.(Madrid, Spain. December 2006)
5. "FEAR TRANSFORMER // COURAGE FOUNTAIN " at Galerie Clark.(Montréal, Québec, Canada. May 2006)
6. " WHY ISN'T EDUCATION THE PRIORITY ? " (Madrid, Spain. October 2006)

Each of these actions, proposals, installations and fictional machines, made out of common and low-tech handcrafted materials face a different political issue. Palomino explains that the task of one individual confronting these daunting and complex global issues is like a tragic comedy. He asks: " What do we do with such a tremendous amount of information which are inundated with the every day ? How can we handle it ? In the labyrinth of the media is it possible to ask: What is true ? What is false ? Are these questions pertinent to our lives ?

"Are there any ethical rules in the industry of the information ? Or is it just the battlefield where power relations are played out ?"

The artist prompts us to question these systems and relationships and suggests that the Locker Plant installation is an attempt to address these global issues.

"The many articles seen in the installation represent MEDIA as INPUT, to be filtered through the machine, generating ORIENTATION as OUTPUT. MEDIA FILTER & BIG COMPASS is hopefully conceived to provide a humoristic-headache reliever with its approach, and can also remind us how humor, language and criticism can work together to give us a refreshing perspective on some important social issues, that in many cases are distorted, harmfully misunderstood , and finally, neglected".