

Concert: Tarzan Stripes Artist or Busker?

Thomas Ashforth of Antenna and La More fame, performed as Tarzan Stripes.

Formed in 1166, the original "Tarzan Stripes", was made up of Troubadours, Trouvères, Minstrels, Jongleurs, Trobairitz', and Minnesänger - a band of performers constantly on the move through the lands of Northern Europe. The members, who through their lifestyle and attitude came to be known as "the hobo chic", were uprooted individuals, united, beyond the boundaries of superficial categorisation, by their need to sing and dance and love. "The hobo chic" is now represented by a one member "Tarzan Stripes", along with thousands of others under other names - the band simultaneously split and unified through the forces of modernity.

This event was filmed and recorded and conversations took place in the bar after each performance. This material will be available, along with discussion surrounding the issues this has raised, at a later date.



I.D.E.A.London is a continuously evolving project open to new ideas and collaborators. To join the mailing list and receive details of events, please email idealondon@gold.ac.uk.

I.D.E.A. London

Week 1: 9th - 15th May 2005

Day one of I.D.E.A.London proved to be logistically challenging as we began the first of many (ongoing) negotiations with the ICA about what we can and can't do. Posters went up and the building was attacked with our stickers (most of which have been removed!).

Hugo Canoilas successfully installed his work in the vitrine in the foyer and Thomas Ashforth began his daily performance as Tarzan Stripes outside - almost immediately attracting police attention. A small accident with the video camera nearly resulted in tears but all in all the week began well!

As the week progressed, Benoit Maire arrived from Paris in order to start his residency and Alex Zika's *Protest Rota* began. Sarah Andrew and members of I.D.E.A.London successfully installed her work in the bar at the end of the week. However, I.D.E.A.London came up against a mathematical challenge: we could not fathom why on earth the space after the last photograph was so much bigger when we had worked it out so carefully, twice!



On Friday Thomas Ashforth was served a notice by the Metropolitan Police informing him that he was not allowed to trade. This led to us wondering what exactly he was trading in? He was not collecting money, so was he selling himself?

The Institute of Contemporary Agora held its first performance on Sunday, resulting in the audience providing us with a range of concepts to try and make happen. All in all it was an interesting week...

Hugo Canoilas

When and how do things or actions become art? Where is the limit between art and life, between normative and alternative, inside and outside the art institution?

As an artist, Hugo Canoilas has learnt from Duchamp that these interrogations are cyclic, without definitive answer and will probably remain so. Yet, if relational aesthetics is the present-day response, his practice readdresses the issues in a liminal and tangential manner to this. The vitrine is a hybrid reflecting the random legitimacy of art. Samples of modern art are mixed with found objects and photographs documenting some of his previous street interventions. The works make references to things that they are not any more; to real-world objects or to a certain type of praxis. However they do not allude to art itself, because they themselves have become art, within the institutional frame.

Consequently, the art institution is no longer just an architectural or social space, but is the medium itself, which sometimes looks as artificial as a vitrine and as expressive as life's death mask.



ICA - Institute of Contemporary Agora

ICA, the Institute of Contemporary Agora, is located in ICA, the Institute of Contemporary Art as part of I.D.E.A.London's squat. However, none of the official public function spaces in the institution can be used; for example, the main galleries and walls. One of the aims of the Institute of Contemporary Agora is to activate the social space that remains in the absence of the above mentioned gallery spaces. ICA is interested in provoking an interaction between art and audience by collecting their concepts at the first event in order to try and realise them at the second.

The space of ICA, Institute of Contemporary Agora, started at 5:30 pm on Sunday 15th May, in the form of a performance. These are a few of the concepts that were collected:

- Change the light bulb in the cafe to orange so they match the chairs and give a better sense of co-ordination and overall ambience.
- Forget everything you know ... start again.
- Making love.
- The artist should always be in the show, and talk to the audience!

The concepts collected will be realised on Saturday 5th June at I.D.E.A.London.

Alex Zika: Protest Rota

Protest Rota is a voluntary daily 15 minute protest for all the employees of the ICA. Each person working in and for the ICA is encouraged and entitled to publicly express (for fifteen minutes of their paid working time and in any manner and way they choose) any personal concerns, discontents or criticism to those within the institution.

This action is a democratic exercise, testing the flexibility of the institution for facilitating an internal dialogue, amplifying its political and social dynamics and highlighting the many personal concerns sheltered by it. It also tests the willingness of the staff to individually partake in a critical exchange.

Rotas were placed in each department of the ICA.