



# POWER STATION

**SATELLITE EVENT OF THE SINGAPORE BIENNALE 2006 - 1st to 2nd September, 2006**  
Various public spaces throughout Singapore - Curator: Ong Puay Khim

Updates on the project: [www.powerartifice.com](http://www.powerartifice.com)  
Artist web site: [www.stefanocagol.com](http://www.stefanocagol.com)  
Media enquiries: [puaykhim.ong@powerartifice.com](mailto:puaykhim.ong@powerartifice.com) Mobile: (65) 9199 8721

Presented by the IIC - Italian Cultural Institute in Singapore,  
this satellite project by Stefano Cagol is the only Italian presence  
at the Singapore Biennale 2006.

#### **Sense of belonging, nationalism, economy, and global village**

POWER STATION takes the form of public intervention, highlighting contemporary influences, beliefs, pre/misconceptions and belonging. Power, in various forms extends its influence to our daily lives yet our notion of power and its extent of influence is often, perhaps deliberately, overlooked. The project challenges our understanding of identity in relation to authority, nation-hood and globalisation. Moving and interacting within/outside "centres of power", be it cultural, political or financial, POWER STATION aptly questions their authority and invites reflexivity yet inevitably becoming an accomplice to these power games.

POWER STATION in Singapore will feature a white van traveling and stopping at various spots throughout the island. During each stop, the national anthems of selected countries will emanate from the van, while badges bearing words such as "Art Power", "Money Power" and "Media Power" will be distributed to the public. And with the words "POWER STATION" emblazoned on the van, a term associated with the generation of power, this project continues Cagol's investigations into contemporary influences.

## **A Public Art Project by stefano cagol**

Taking place during Singapore's inaugural international biennale of contemporary art, which also coincides with Singapore's hosting of the Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group, these events provide a highly appropriate context for POWER STATION's investigations. POWER STATION's interventions into the city's political, financial and cultural "centres of power" invites the public to re-examine our understanding of identity in relation to authority, nation-hood and globalisation. Inviting reflexivity, it pertinently questions the authority of these power centres while highlighting their significance in framing a sense of belonging, pride and unity. Suspended in-between the negative and positive, familiar and implied meanings of the term "power", Cagol's engagement with the public underlines the complexity of power and authority. Neither definitive nor univocal, the concept of "power" is infinitely expanded. However, this multiplicity is subverted by the distribution of badges, once a symbol of rank but now playfully utilised as an accessory. The broadcasting of anthems of "nations in power" juxtaposed with those of the "aspiring powers-to-be" hints at the universal appeal for power, at once resisted yet irresistible. This project highlights how "power", as manifested through the visible centres of respected authority, inhabits every aspect of contemporary society and is rooted in every individual.

POWER STATION is part of Cagol's ongoing research investigating influences, symbols, and mass manifestation. The series of projects saw its pivoting moments with "White Flags" at the 51st Venice Biennale and "Bird Flu" at the 4th Berlin Biennale. Cagol will continue this research with the work-in-progress "Harajuku Influences" in September 2006 in Tokyo in collaboration with the Italian Cultural Institute of Tokyo, Japan. The results of his investigations will be documented in a book published by CHARTA (Milan).



Italian Cultural Institute in Singapore  
Tel: (65) 6255 3073 Fax: (65) 6352 2005  
Email: [iicsingapore@esteri.it](mailto:iicsingapore@esteri.it)  
Website: [www.iicsingapore.esteri.it](http://www.iicsingapore.esteri.it)

For more information on the Singapore Biennale 2006, visit  
[www.singaporebiennale.org](http://www.singaporebiennale.org)  
or call (65) 6837 9270.