

Press Release:

Stefano Cagol

Vogelgrippe Kuhlraum

a Public Art Installation

Westergasfabriek - Cultuur Park, Amsterdam

On view 24/7

January 14 – March 12, 2012

“From pandemia panic to economical pandemia panic”

The Westergasfabriek Cultuur Park, the unique industrial heritage designated to be a permanent place for art and contemporary creative energy in Amsterdam, is pleased to host a public art installation by Italian artist Stefano Cagol, who just ended his solo show at San Gallo church as part of the Venice Biennale.

A fridge is relocated in the green of the park. It's an installation that is developed using waste material: an old refrigerator, but white, so maintaining a look familiar and clinical at the same time. This container titled *Vogelgrippe Kuhlraum* (in German: refrigerator of the avian influenza) and marked by the black writings ‘Bird flu’ and ‘Vogelgriep’ (the English and Dutch terms for the same influenza) symbolically spreads sound: the anthems of the G8 nations mixed with the squawking of different breeds of birds, chickens, turkeys, quails, etc etc.

The installation was presented for the first time in Ghent in 2006, in the moment of greatest hype in Europe over bird flu. On that occasion the fridge was located a zoo, but it did not dominate amidst the animals in cages, but among menacing plastic Tyrannosauruses: that show, titled *Zoo Logical*, was curated by Angelique Campens at Harry Malter Park.

Thought for the moment of pandemia panic (2006), now (2012) in the middle of the economical pandemia panic, of the western culture crisis, the

capitalistic world crisis, the mix of national anthems and birds songs spread by a waste fridge finds new meanings more...

In Amsterdam, two refrigerators placed in two different locations of a green park, the Cultuurpark (park rich in culture, ateliers, theater, cinema and more), open to a dialogue addressed to thousands of observers during the 3-months permanence!

The project is produced by the Italian Institute of Culture (Istituto Italiano di Cultura - Amsterdam) and supported by l'Ozio an exhibitions and events space and eatcafé devoted to all Italian culture in Amsterdam where Stefano Cagol is presenting a solo show called "Fight or flight" referring to the reactions of animals to a situation of danger choosing to run away or to start a fight. In fact Stefano Cagol's research – documented in a brand new wide monograph edited by Charta – faces socio political balances and their interpretation by media that influences public opinion.

The Westergasfabriek Culture Park is a 14-hectare permanently designated cultural zone in Amsterdam.

Creative entrepreneurs work in the renovated historic buildings and many high-profile events and festivals are held here. So the Westergasfabriek is regarded as a model for redevelopment, far beyond the Netherlands' borders.

The video documenting the installation:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_H8babDHfc&list=UUoqgkGy7VqJz7P6BPWaSqxA

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STEFANO CAGOL'S VOGELGRIPPE KUHLEIN IS SUPPORTED BY



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