



Gürsoy Dogtas
Protest & Sensation
www.mattmagazine.com

1. Group exhibition: May 28th 08 at 19.30h
Till July 26th 08
Community of Interest: Galerie5020/Salzburg
www.galerie5020.at

2. Basso: June 27th.08/20h
Berlin
www.basso-berlin.de

A project by Gürsoy Dogtas

Matt Magazine is a synthesis between fanzine and current affairs magazine. Text and pictures complement each other, tackling complex and political subjects relevant to our times. All the texts in Matt are from previously-published classic documents from the history of science and humanities. Xeroxed copies of extracts with occasional sections highlighted or circled in a purely subjective way are juxtaposed with images from a different source. Matt Magazine is in the tradition of critical concept art and is oriented towards the aesthetic of appropriation Art.

“Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire” (OBE) is one of the highest honours bestowed, just below knighthood and is awarded personally each year by the Queen herself “For God and the Empire”. To accept the Order for her merits (“Service to British Fashion”) Vivienne Westwood appears elegantly dressed and uses the stage, which the photographers offer her, to lift up her long grey skirt, in order to draw attention to its full, gold inner lining. The next day these photos dominate the front pages of the English press, not as a result of the fantastic shimmering inner lining, but because she came to the ceremony without any underwear on and performed this ostentatious act in front of the lenses of the press – thus ensuring perfect sensation!

While acts of sensation are primarily attention-seeking, protest is mainly an expression of resistance. Resistance has also made use of media experience and has developed a sovereign dealing in the bringing together of these two phenomena - protest & sensation. Westwood’s absent knickers guarantee publicity but are also an affront against the head of the royal family. The fourth issue of Matt Magazine is dedicated to the historical origins of the combination of protest and sensation, to its most powerful staging, to the heroism of „Protest & Sensation“!

Chapter 1

On the 13th January 1898 Émile Zola published his masterful letter “J’accuse” in the liberal newspaper L’Aurore - an open letter addressed to the French President, in which he campaigned stirringly for justice. His courageous act led directly to his judicial conviction, but also to his immortality. Values gained through protests, demonstrations and civil disobedience are not permanently gained as the photos of Gürsoy Dogtas illustrate. Values have to be fought for constantly.

Chapter 2

Secrets accidentally exposed to the world usually result in sensation (depending on the explosive nature of the information exposed) and often erupt into scandal.

The “Nuclear Football” (also called the President’s Emergency Satchel) is a specially equipped black briefcase used by the president of the United States of America to authorize the launch of nuclear weapons.

The activation code is kept within the president's reach at all times. The video „Nuclear Football“ by artists Andrée Korpys and Markus Loeffler depicts the US president's 19-hour visit to Tegel Airport and Schloss Bellevue in Berlin during May 2002. Georg Simmel researches in „The Secret and the Secret Society“ the ritualised managing of secrets as a key component of secret societies!

Chapter 3

Sensation and Protest are optimized if the leading idea is personified in one figure. This could be the hero's time of birth. Otto Rank has discovered a lot of astonishingly similar patterns in the narrations of birth myths overlapping nations and epochs.

Streakers are women and men who expose themselves at massive public events, e.g running naked across the pitch during a football match or running naked through a field. The photos in this section present the international star of streaking, Mark Roberts. Even if the motivation of this exhibitionist demonstrator differ from those of PETA, nevertheless streakers all achieve the same way of protesting- the simplest and most powerful one – the naked body daubed with a slogan.

Chapter 4

The metamorphosis of the way of protesting emerges into to the mainstream, if it manifests itself in the daily routine of the people. Especially through music, protest becomes anchored as part of the feeling of being alive. When things deteriorate, the significance of the protest swiftly becomes hollowed out. The photos of Guersoy Dogtas illustrate the story of the way Protest becomes eroded to the mainstream.

Mike Davis starts his book „Buda's Wagon“ with the first "car bomb", which was set off in Wall Street in 1920. With this explosion the anarchist Mario Buda transformed himself into an angel of vengeance for his comrades who had been sentenced to death.

Since then the car bomb has progressed to become a conventional method of violent protest.

Exhibitions:

Matt Magazine #1
Freizeit und Konsum
Galerie Hafen und Rand
Friedrichstraße 28
20359 Hamburg
www.hafenrand.com

Matt Magazine #2
Mobility & Surveillance
Les Complices
Anwandstraße 9
CH-8004 Zürich
www.lescomplices.ch

Matt Magazine #3
Prominence given, authority taken
Lothringer13/laden_ps
81667 München
<http://laden.lothringer13.de>

Matt Magazine #3
Prominence given, authority taken
Ludlow 38
1014 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10028, USA

Matt Magazine #4
Protest & Sensation
Basso/Berlin
June 27th, 2008
www.basso-berlin.de

Matt Magazine #4
Protest & Sensation
Galerie5020/Salzburg
28.5- 26.7.08
www.galerie5020.at

Also present here in 2008:

Published and be Damned/London
www.publishandbedamned.org

Salon Light#5/Paris
<http://www.cneai.com>

The NY Art Book Fair
<http://printedmatter.org>

Matt Magazine is friend with Starship
<http://starship-magazine.org>