

## Matt Magazine #5



**Guersoy Dogtas**  
**Inflammable**  
[www.mattmagazine.com](http://www.mattmagazine.com)

**Bruxelles**  
**30/31 December**



**Tel Aviv**  
**4/5 February**

A project by Guersoy 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.

On 27th October 2005 two young men from Clichy-sous-Bois were electrocuted in a substation while trying to escape from the police. As a result, younger members of the local immigrant community drew attention to their plight with violent acts and by setting fire to cars.

It was unusual how quickly the disturbances from Clichy-sous-Bois spread - firstly to the next municipality, then to adjacent areas until finally, on the night of the 7th November 2005, 274 municipalities were involved, with a total of 1408 cars set alight. Never before had so many cars been simultaneously ablaze.

The question that followed was how to calm social tensions, which are easily inflammable, how to put out fires and to present the protest to the public in such a way that every demand these teenagers made to the government, could be perceived as terrorist blackmail.

This edition of Matt magazine explores the question of how to express adequate protest while treading a fine line between avoiding being criminalised by the state and the media on the one hand and making sure the protest does not fizzle out and lose the sympathy of its audience.

This issue, entitled "Inflammable", is interested in the two extremes – from the moment before the "barrel of gunpowder" exploded in the suburbs of Paris to other violent conflicts, which have escalated rather than being resolved.

### Chapter 1

"The Weight Of The World" is a sociological study published under the aegis of Pierre Bourdieu in 1993, about the suburbs ("les banlieux") of France. For the most part this book eschews sociological terminology and comes in the format of a series of interviews.

From 40-plus interviews contained within it, Matt Magazine selected one conducted between Pierre Bourdieu and two very close friends, François and Ali. Both of them are stuck in suburbs and share the same problems in school, of being stigmatized, and of the lack of an infrastructure without which they cannot escape the boredom of the suburbs (providing no leisure facilities to keep them occupied) – unless it is into the city centres.

This interview gets illustrated by the photos of Guersoy Dogtas.

## Chapter 2

A radical change took place in the 20th century from a positive utopia to a negative utopia. The positive vision of a standardized, centralised welfare state turned into the negative utopia of a terrible vision – a dehumanized society deprived of freedom. The supposed progress proves to be a boomerang and a misanthropic retrograde step has been taken.

Matt Magazine looks at an extract of Ray Bradbury's novel "Fahrenheit 451", where a resistance group fight against the hostile regime in power. The boundary lines between good and evil are clearly drawn within the story – yet such distinctions are almost impossible to make in the case of the censored and self-censored pictures of the media. The harshness of Thomas Hirschhorn's uncensored images is almost unbearable for the viewer.

### **Exhibitions:**

Matt Magazine #1  
Freizeit & Konsum  
Galerie Hafen und Rand  
Friedrichstraße 28  
20359 Hamburg  
[www.hafenrand.com](http://www.hafenrand.com)

Matt Magazine #2  
Mobility & Surveillance  
Les Complices  
Anwandstraße 9  
CH-8004 Zürich  
[www.lescomplices.ch](http://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  
Ende Juni  
[www.basso-berlin.de](http://www.basso-berlin.de)

Matt Magazine #4  
Protest & Sensation  
Interessengemeinschaft:Galerie5020/  
Salzburg  
28.5- 26.7.08  
[www.galerie5020.at](http://www.galerie5020.at)

Matt Magazine #5  
Inflammable  
Sticking around in the Streets of  
Bruxelles 30/31 Dezember 2008  
and Tel Aviv 4/5 Februar 2009

### **Also prent here in 2009:**

Published and be Damned/London  
[www.publishandbedamned.org](http://www.publishandbedamned.org)

Salon Light#6/Paris  
<http://www.cneai.com>

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<http://starship-magazine.org>  
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