

Marcelo Expósito, *Radical Imagination (Carnivals of Resistance)*, 2004, 60 min.

Can we re-invent the demonstrations as an effective form of resistance against contemporary capitalism? Is there a border between the pleasure and politics? Or can we speak today about the political culture which is capable to join political with aesthetical, pleasurable, joyful and fun? These are the main questions inquired through the one hour long documentary video by Marcelo Expósito, exploring the history and development of new activist appropriationist movements, and in particular Reclaim the Streets as the most wide-spread one.

Reclaim the Streets movement arose at the beginning of the 1990s around London through the alliance between the ravers, environmental protectionists and various socialist supporters. At the intersection of anti-capitalist and hedonist strategies, Reclaim the Streets sought to test the appropriation of the streets, transforming them from A to B manner of conduct into the new public sphere in which protest and rave, outrage and desire, are all intertwined in the radical street parties. A high point of the relatively long history of Reclaim the Streets movement was the global day of action on June 18th, 1999, which as the Carnival Against Capitalism generated forms of action that were to be relevant in several ways for the further development of the anti-globalization movement.

*Radical imagination (Carnivals of Resistance)* investigates the change of the traditional forms of protest: disappearance of the sacrificial mode of protestors, storming the barricades, violent conflicts, the "man of the crowd". It shows the "politics of pleasure" in which carnival meets rebellion, and individual transformation meets the collective one, aiming to the change of the existing power relations and celebrating "indestructible lust for life".

Text by: Jelena Vesić. Extracted from *No More Reality. Crowd and Performance* exhibition dossier.

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Curators: Claire Staebler and Jelena Vesić. Artists: Fia Backström, Johanna Billing, Susanne Bürner, Chto Delat?, Marcelo Expósito, Claire Fontaine, Igor Grubic, Sharon Hayes, Inventory, Olga Kisseleva, Ligna, Ciprian Muresan, Marta Popivoda/Illegal Cinema, Radek Community, R.E.P. group, The Revolution Will Not Be Televised.

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