

Doppelganger
by Papo Colo, 2005
New York City

Culture, the apparatus that produce our thinking, is the source of our duality. Abel and Cain, good and bad, black and white, yin and yang. If there is one, there is the other, a never-ending dynamics of similarity, twins. Every intention has double understanding, yours and theirs. Who is the I and who is the other? It is a reflection in a mirror that when touched becomes a transparent door that guides you to another dimension. What is the function of art in us? How does it create its character?

Some countries become duplicated, auto copies. There is something religious about it, multiplications are messianic. The more you are, the more you become the owner. Duplication is possession. It is known that with the hypnotic powers of repetition humans can believe anything. Duplication is possession.

We expand inside ourselves and want to give something to others. Do those pretensions backfire or will our influence prevail?

In this new century our innovations become overwhelming and we have to reproduce ourselves in this process. We have created an imperial law of representation. A canon of the governing culture that is reflected in language, customs, and in choices of art and criticism. There is a tribal instinct in all these emotions, and if you don't follow those impulses you are the *other* or an additional version of the original. The other is an opinion that is interrelated but with a different inventiveness. Sometimes this concept of otherness becomes a forgotten idea that is included after the text is written, other times before. With this acknowledgement the exhibition begins.

Every reality has its opposite, each opinion an antithesis. Inverse truths are part of our life. So why do we hide the other, the one that is not us? Is it because it affects our interest of supremacy?

The opinions of others make us subjects not objects, something alive and contradictory, a dual deal to present in the balance of reason. The other side of reality has a logical conclusion, a narcissistic reflection of the facts. Nothing is wrong with that, but the denial of this information is would mean additional suffering for both sides. Democracy is the balance of both not the preeminence of one.

This exhibition shows that the others are numerous and have many purposes. They experience life as a reflection but with a different understanding. They are the perfect copy, so the same and different that the original becomes lost in the translation. Languages that are parallel never cross, existing as numerous dimensions of one view. This other America is another vision of many that is as valid as the judgment of the next *Other America*.

Hate, love and the emotions in between are the dynamics that move the others to grow. Powerful countries that invent contemporary art have their own manifest destiny, as do the multinationals in their crusade for trade and manipulation of faith.

Democracy shows us that numbers count. That's why we multiply as 'consumer warriors' of the free world. There is another world out there and we have to fix, mold and reproduce it according to our beliefs and interests. If that reality doesn't exist we have the power to invent it, so why not produce images of others accordingly to those facts?

Our exhibitions present art that is meaningful to the point of revealing our fears and mystifying our will. We at Exit Art produce *conceptplus* exhibitions on a variety of themes, from the ornamental to the historical, from the physical to the technological, all of them with aesthetic beauty and political gusto. Exhibitions have objects so the subject becomes the focus, freeing the object of its functions as ornamentation. Part of this world is fiction. In a chaotic and uneven world what do you expect?

An exhibition of art is a collection of thoughts illustrated through graphic design. Any artwork or any text when viewed by the spectator will become explicit, which is to say graphic. Art is the half of all truths. It is a stage that the public is always watching. There is no privacy. Art is a state of isolation from social life. It is the liberating feeling of not belonging, a meditative quest for enlightenment. But then the other appears and convinces you that belonging is the only salvation, that it is your substance and the souls of your genetics. How many others do we have? Most people have a lot of *others*; genetic visual volumes are jammed with persuasion. This exhibition inserts you into the middle of those dynamics, walking the wire. From those answers never found, to those questions never asked. An artists' life is the interpretation of those others. You can read it in this show.

There are *other* Americans in every part of the world. And we feel we have the right / duty to be present, everywhere, all the time. Is this the edge of being an American? Are we all the doubles and the others of this world? Do we also try to be all the commodities? Is this manifest destiny confronting history again?

Our art has to represent all of these realities. These exhibitions of others, anothers and doubles. The right of recognition is what all the others need, without it resentment turns into hate. This is the purpose of this exhibition.

Entertainment then is the *other* of art. Democrats and Republicans formulating our future? Are *others* in others, or are we anothers?

Some indigenous people believe that every human has their double. Others that mirror you are another dimension that look exactly like you but are different in character. There are many options in this idea of the double. What we don't know is how the other came to action. What is the difference between the other and the double, the copy and the original?

Text for the exhibition at Exit Art NY

OTHER AMERICA

3/5/2005 - 5/7/2005