

TRAFFIC

by Papo Colo, 2005

NYC-Vieques

Our birth is the traffic of genes, our sexes the route.
One sperm among millions is caught.
We are a product of trafficking in love.

Traffic is our notion of velocity and mutation.
Interchanging gods, goods, and people.

In traffic danger is always present.
Its movement is the fuel.
Slow or fast, giving us protection against confusion.
Its order is the chaos, it exists in any circumstance.
Traffic is the repetition of an action, the constant change of space, and the dynamics of speed.

Traffic is the illegal definition of trade: people, drugs, money, information.

But it is also a way to translate, transmit, trance, transmutate, transpast, and transfer ideas of art into a 3d space in a manual or electronic method.

Traffic is an alpha word in which meanings flow, like art?
When we traffic in imagination, we adapt ugliness into beauty, money into refinement.
Our sense of utility, transplants any predilection of taste.
Traffic is the medium of building answers and imagining questions.
The reality of the changing hands, the 3 card Monty.

Conceptplus

Exit Art 's TRAFFIC is our second Biennial. The first was RECONSTRUCTION in 2003. Our biennial exhibitions deal with the phenomena of "mega cities." Traffic is an important issue for a metropolis and here at Exit Art.... the subject matters.

In the "conceptplus" system the artist submits---or we, the curators, see or know of a artwork related to the topic of the exhibition. With this approach, artists who are interested in the issue can also adapt their work to engage with the theme. In the installation, there are no rooms or walls to divide the work. The individual pieces work together as a collective story. The curator and designer have to facilitate the exhibition language to creatively enhance the public's experience of reading the show. A "magic" show like this one--on the art of traffic--deserves meditation, observation, and analysis.

Exit Art Biennials deal with cultural necessity. The artists' interpretation is not about a commercial opportunity. We don't traffic in laundering money, house decoration, secure investments, or cultural tourism. This is done and we don't disagree, it is good for the artist. Nowadays there are biennials, triennials, "big" art events everywhere. These events give us cultural entertainment and some artists enter the art business. The art world is full of individual pretensions and tribe proud.

It makes sense. Art is a poetic commentary of the self and where the artist comes from. This is not good or bad, it is the fact of the complex ornamental-intellectual commerce of who is who in the ruling class of the art world. We take our hat off for that....touché.

But we are a non-profit experimental arts cultural center, (small but effectively sort of first, second, third, and four world simultaneously]. We deal with the pragmatism of the possible, the invention of presentation, the discovery of new talent and innovative ideas of culture that are affecting our lives. We are more concerned in the analysis of specific world issues: traffic, water, habitat, fuel, wars, beauty or ugliness and the aesthetics of necessity. All of this is achievable because we have the public treasure of benefactors, foundations, individuals and our committed, extraordinary board of directors.

A focused artist is an optimum performer. The artist's mind is a labyrinth of ideas mirroring their surroundings. Their local preoccupations have become a global angst. Visual artists are the actors of sight; they belong to the eye of the mind. They are experiencing the traffic that rules their lives, and we plant their work into our garden of thoughts for the public's appreciation.

If we are always entering someplace, we are always trafficking to an exit. Traffic subsequently is the distance between in and out. Which means that your existence is a moment, multiplied with other moments. Traffic then is your time and space in life. Because we are also in traffic from one life to another, transmitting and translating our biography to an illustrated story... our art. We are reaching for immortality in route to the unknown, hoping traffic will keep growing until the chaos and order that it produces, keeps us on our toes for the rest of this life.

Text for the exhibition at Exit Art NY
EXIT BIENNIAL II: TRAFFIC
10/1/2005 - 12/23/2005