

Brusselssprout No. 1

"The Game is not Over" Dubai Manifesto 1/3

Featured Artists: Andre Orione, Mikko Rosti, Maysoon Somov, David Payton & Blue Tank

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Why Dubai could not be considered as the first genuine work of art of the 21st century?. The three aesthetic categories (the beautiful, the sublime and the picturesque) have never been so present in the work of an artist at the beginning of this century. The West seems to fail over and over again to comprehend Dubai and its implications. The main reason for this inability lies on the fact that there isn't a museum large enough in the Western world to temporarily exhibit Dubai.

In the discussion held in relation to the Abu Dhabi Art Fair 2009, Hans Ulrich Obrist seemed to be predicting this production of new artistic pieces, when he said that present-day museums set the benchmark for artistic creation in advance. The challenge lies precisely in the design of the structures for new artistic entities.

Similarly, it appears that Rem Koolhaas already sensed that Dubai would become a work of art when he wrote 'Like a pristine and untouched canvas, the sand and sea of the Persian Gulf coast constitute a tabula rasa, waiting to receive the imprint of new identities'. His pavilion at the 10th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale is the nearest attempt to exhibit Dubai temporarily in the West.

In this first issue Brusselssprout sets off on a journey in search of its creator, a homage to the artist of Dubai via Dubai itself. Andre Orione embarks on an extraordinary journey in search of the birthplace of the river of information, the source of Dubai: the myth, the number 1. In the manner of the great explorers who headed into unfamiliar parts of the African continent for so many centuries, to search for the source of the Nile, to shed light on the unknown. From Pedro Páez to James Bruce. Orione, deprived of any meme whatsoever, presents his findings throughout his travels. He travels Dubai's public spaces, coming up with examples of what generates and moves everything. As if, in that way, number 1 would be nearer and would allow us to understand, let us partake in, the step from a more personal scale to a universal and infinite one.

Dubai seems to have become a real river of information at the beginning of the 21st century. A flow of information that now and again experiences an increase in its volume and floods the world's dry rational meadows, so thirsty for myth. Once the water has returned to its source, nothing is the same again. The current drags up memes that will remain in the meadows of 140 characters forever. It seems like the West has decided to bestow itself with the ability to judge without analysis.

New York is not that far removed from Dubai. Many hypotheses have been fabricated on the origin, but perhaps via the journey proposed by Orione, we can guess from the look of number 1, as a personal ambition that will leave its mark on history. As personal and intimate as that.