

Casco

Office for Art, Design and Theory

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PRESS RELEASE
The Antagonistic Link
29 March – 17 May 2009

Opening: Saturday 28 March, 17.00. Accompanied by a first staging of 'Ongoing propositions under different conditions' by Sönke Hallmann & Achim Lengerer.

Casco, Office for Art, Design and Theory presents 'The Antagonistic Link', a project taking place in dialogue with 'The Demon of Comparisons' at Stedelijk Museum Bureau Amsterdam. Both exhibitions are on view from 29 March till 17 May 2009; in different ways, they each develop critical approaches to intercultural exchange and transnational artistic research. 'The Antagonistic Link' and 'The Demon of Comparisons' were developed by Electric Palm Tree in collaboration with Casco and SMBA.

'The Antagonistic Link' uses 'Bye Bye Kipling', a historical satellite event coordinated by Nam June Paik in 1986, as its point of departure. The exhibition combines this piece with three other projects initiated by artists and designers from South Korea, as well as other related activities.

Although the contributing artists all have the same nationality, their works do not primarily focus on their national identity or the Korean social and political context. Rather, what connects their projects is that they are all researching constructive possibilities for dealing with the sense of distance and antagonism toward faraway places and other cultures that is the paradoxical product of advancing globalization.

Whereas 'The Demon of Comparisons' at SMBA highlights various individual positions of "double vision", presenting ambiguous comparative views of different cultures and powers, 'The Antagonistic Link' explores ways in which global opposites can be connected and made to coexist in an agonistic process of constant negotiation.

The title has been adopted from the book 'The Antagonistic Link', which deals with the short-lived collaborative relationship between artists Theo van Doesburg and Joaquin Torres-Garcia in the late 1920s. In spite of the cultural distance and personal differences between them, their collaborative attempt remains a vivid example of transnational exchange.

List of projects & artists

- Mixrice, 'Mixterminal', 2005–2009, installation with archive of various activities
- Sasa [44] with Sulki & Min, 'Heavy Metal (News) Around the World', 2009, installation and newsletter
- Nam June Paik, 'Bye Bye Kipling', 1986, video
- Hwa Yeon Nam, 'Operational Play', 2009, installation, script and performance

Thursday 9 April, 20.00

A conversation between curator Aneta Szylak (director of Wyspa Institute of Art, Gdansk) and artist Hiwa K. on their collaborative initiative 'Estrangement', a broad international collaborative discursive platform that will focus on process, encounter and debate as an open form of research into concept of estrangement.

Co-organized in the context of 'Framer Framed', a series of discussions initiated by Centraal Museum, Casco, AAMU, Museum Maluku, Kosmopolis Utrecht and TUMULT.

Performance: Saturday 16 May, 14.00
(starting from Casco)

A participatory performance of 'Operational Play', a project by Hwa Yeon Nam, takes place at six different locations across the city on 16 May 2009. The 16 players are involved in a collaborative performance based on 23 wars, between 1940 and 2006 and will re-stage them across Utrecht. Each actor masquerades under pseudonyms that represent various operational wars like: Operation Queen, a joint British-American operation during World War II in the Hürtgen Forest near Aachen, and some that are still very vivid on our minds like Operation Blue Tiger and Desert Scorpion, the names of the two invasions in Iraq.

Please check our website or contact Jakob van Stolk (jakob@cascoprojects.org) to find out more and participate in the performance.

'The Antagonistic Link' is curated by Binna Choi, director of Casco, as well as co-curator of Electric Palm Tree.

Electric Palm Tree was initiated by Kyongfa Che and Binna Choi, joined by Cosmin Costinas, and established in the beginning of 2008. Its activities will continue with many other colleagues, friends, and as-yet-strangers. More information about Electric Palm Tree is available at www.electricpalmtree.org.

'The Antagonistic Link' and other Electric Palm Tree activities in the period 2008-2009 are made possible by Fonds BKVB in the framework of Intendant Culturele Diversiteit. With thanks to the Nam June Paik Art Center, Youngin, South Korea.

The Casco programme is generously supported by Mondriaan Foundation and Gemeente Utrecht.

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Casco, established in 1990 in Utrecht, is committed to the production and presentation of interdisciplinary projects and participatory activities initiated with artists and designers. Its primary focus is on the areas where art, design and theory intersect to form critical, imaginative and collaborative inquiries into our social and physical environment.

For further inquiry, please email to Magali Meijers (magali@cascoprojects.org) or call at +31 (0) 30 231 9995