

Press release

Francisco Camacho ENTKUNSTUNG DE L'ART

The artistic path of Francisco Camacho (born in 1979 in Bogotá; living and working in Amsterdam) is hinged around the relationships between politics, society and art. His work, somewhere between political action and social analysis, is made up of performances and supported by trends in social philosophy. The project undertaken by Francisco Camacho, as resident artist at Casino Luxembourg, is entitled *Entkunstung de l'art* and refers to the concept of *Entkunstung* ("des-artification") forged by the German philosopher Theodor W. Adorno. This signifies a work of art's loss of artistic character in relation to cultural industry. According to this concept, the object character of a work of art gives way to a new definition of art in society: engaged art seeking to make art a solution in itself rather than a piece of merchandise.

For his project in Luxembourg, Francisco Camacho firstly made a series of filmed interviews with local personalities from the political, economic, cultural and religious realms. The artist broached subjects relative to the Grand Duchy such as national identity (with Georges Christen, strong man and entertainer), political and economic "liberalism" (with Laurent Mosar, president of the House of Representatives), cultural identity (with Octavie Modert, minister for culture), logical and statistical analysis of economic prosperity (with Jean-Jacques Rommes, director of the ABBL – *Association des banques et banquiers luxembourgeois*), the financial sector (with Carlo Thill, president of the management board of BGL BNP Paribas) and religion (with Fernand Franck, archbishop of Luxembourg).

Secondly, these speeches were submitted to a "deconstruction" process. To do this, the interviews were shown to two groups of people – in this case, pupils from the École de l'Armée (military school) in Diekirch and members of the Luxembourgish hip-hop group *de läb* – who analysed the talks, while aiming for a conclusion which could sum up current identity concerns of Luxembourgers. Following different paths for reflection given in the preamble by Francisco Camacho, the young military recruits lent themselves to the interactive and argumentative debating game, whilst maintaining an analytical approach. With a more rebellious reasoning, the rappers from the group *de läb* composed *Den Dag vun der oppener Dier* (Open Day), a song which, by hinging itself around a metaphor of the house, unmasks the hidden face of the Grand Duchy.

The song *Den Dag vun der oppener Dier* was produced by *de läb* during a single concert performance in the "Aquarium" of Casino Luxembourg during which the public were invited to draw graffiti on the glass surfaces in the area. The "traces" of the concert (the scene, the beer bar, the graffiti, etc.) today make up, together with the video produced by Francisco Camacho at the École de l'Armée, the setting of the *Entkunstung de l'art* project.

project room @ aquarium: Francisco Camacho – *Entkunstung de l'art*

Artist residency from 12 September 2010 to 29 October 2010.

Exhibition *Francisco Camacho – Entkunstung de l'art* from 30 October 2010 to 9 January 2011.

A publication on the project *Entkunstung de l'art* with texts by Kevin Muhlen and Emmanuel Lambion will be published during the exhibition.

The song *Den Dag vun der oppener Dier* from the CD *Casino Royal by de läb* is available at <http://casinoroyalbydelab.bandcamp.com/>



PROJECT R:M