

"The Large Piece of Turf – Contemporary Art in the Public Domain"

"WHEN SATURDAY COMES"

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Frauentorturm

820 cm x 1200 cm, neon tubes, flat grid, transformers, control system

CONCEPT:

The players or events represented by a symbol were selected for their importance in a socio-political context, both for football and beyond.

The neon installation "When Saturday Comes" presents portraits of Socrates, Cesar Luis Menotti, Johann Cruyff (orange 14), Birgit Prinz and Mia Hamm (9), Eusebio (panther), Diego Armando Maradona (Dürer's hands), Justin Fashanu (the Nottingham Forrest logo in rainbow colours) and Eric Cantona.

The title of this work "When Saturday Comes" is a reference to the independent English football fanzine of the same name established in 1986. WSC is not tied to any club and sees itself as dedicated to football as such. The fanzine has regularly reported on the topic of racism in stadiums and in English football in general. It introduces books and other material on the topic, but also relates the experiences of a wide range of fans.

Clockwise from bottom left:

The "**Liverpool Flame**" is a reminder of the 1989 disaster in the Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield: too many tickets had been sold for the FA Cup match between Liverpool and Nottingham Forrest. Thousands more fans than would have been admissible were packed into one block. Because things were getting more and more cramped, Liverpool fans desperately tried to get out of the way and onto the pitch. The number of people crushed to death in the stadium was increased considerably because the police attempted to push back the fans. 96 Liverpool fans died.

Justin Fashanu (* 19 February 1961 in Kensington; + 2. May 1998, symbol: **tree**), British football player, the first and so far only professional football player who professed being a homosexual. When he changed to Nottingham Forrest in 1981, he was the first coloured player with a transfer fee of over a million pounds. But rumours about him visiting gay pubs led to arguments with Brian Clough, the club's manager, and finally to Fashanu's dismissal. His sports career never picked up after that. In 1990, he decided to come out in the yellow press newspaper "The Sun". Fashanu then moved to the United States where he worked as a football coach for young people, and in April 1998 was accused of sexually assaulting a minor. He went into hiding and returned to Britain where he finally hanged himself.

"Marching Together" symbolised in the work by a **peacock** (from the Leeds United logo) refers to a fanzine made by Leeds United fans. Until the late 1980s, Leeds United and its fans were considered one of the most racist groups in English professional football. Towards the end of the 1980s, Leeds United fans started fighting against racism in the stadium. Several campaigns were developed, including the publication of the fanzine "Marching Together".

The logo of Dynamo Kiev connected with the year **1942** points to the "death match" of Kiev. In August 1942, a German Air Force football team played against the Ukrainian team of "Bakery III" in the Kiev Zenith Stadium. The company team included some Dynamo Kiev top players. They defeated the Nazi team with a humiliating 5:3 in front of tens of thousands of spectators. The next day, the players were arrested and deported to a concentration camp, where four of them were shot.

Brazilian national player Socrates, the enfant terrible of his team, always wore a headband saying "**No Terror**", expressing his resistance against the Brazilian military junta which reigned the country until 1985.

When Cesar Luis Menotti (symbol: **head with the "flame of knowledge"**) after Argentina's 1978 World Cup win refused to shake hands with General Videla when he was handed the cup, this gesture – in front of millions of viewers – was a strong sign of resistance against the Argentinian military dictatorship. Menotti combined his concept of the game of football with criticism of the authoritarian regime of his country which had created an atmosphere of fear, distrust and subordination. He said that his players had "defeated the dictatorship of tactics and the terror of systems". In a 1982 interview, he attacked the generals, demanding information about the 6000 or so opponents of the regime who had disappeared and denouncing the economic and social situation after six years of dictatorship. With his commitment, Menotti supported the resistance, and many assume that he helped overthrow the dictatorship.

The Venus symbol transformed to a **number 9** is the number on the strips worn by strikers Mia Hamm (USA) and Birgit Prinz (Germany). Women's soccer is an acknowledged sport in the USA and did not have to struggle against anything like the difficulties women had to face in other countries, such as e.g. Germany where they were only officially licensed in 1970 by the German Football Association. The German women's team winning the World Cup in 2003 gave a tremendous boost to women's football in this country.

The battle cry "**OHA CANTONA**" is dedicated to French player Eric Cantona who fell from grace in the French football world because of his numerous squabbles with referees, coaches and officials. He intended to end his career, but then – supported by Michel Platini, moved to England where he made a considerable contribution to Manchester United becoming a top European team. In spite of his many sporting successes, it was an incident of 25 January 1995 which brought him international "fame". During a match against Crystal Palace he launched a

Kung Fu style attack on a spectator who had spat at him and insulted him with racist comments, after Cantona had been sent off by the referee. He narrowly escaped a two-week prison sentence and was banned for nine months by the Football Association and the FIFA worldwide.

The "**Praying Hands**" by Albrecht Dürer refer to the "helping hand of God" which Diego Armando Maradona cited, trying to give some greater glory to his goal against England during the 1986 World Cup in Mexico which had obviously been a hand goal.

Eusébio da Silva Ferreira (* 25 January 1942 in Lourenço Marques, today Maputo, Mozambique, nicknamed the "Black Pearl" or "**The Black Panther**") is a Portuguese football player who had a strong influence on European football in the 1960s. In 1965 he was elected European Footballer of the Year.

With nine goals, Eusébio was the top striker of the 1966 World Cup in England, having been one of the outstanding players of the tournament with spectacular shots, fine dribblings and his incredible speed, and helping the Portuguese team win third place. In spite of his success, maybe because of it, Eusébio during his active sporting days was a permanent target of racist attacks. After a serious knee injury he ended his career in 1974, aged 32.

Today, Eusébio is an official and advisor for Benfica Lissabon and works as a representative for football in Portugal. He is known and liked far beyond Portugal.

Hendrik Johannes Cruijff, also called Johan *Cruyff* (* 25 April 1947 in Amsterdam, Netherlands), is a former member of the Netherlands' national team. He is considered the best key player of all times. Cruijff captained the Dutch national team which lost the 1974 World Cup final against Germany. In the various teams he played for he always preferred to wear the **number 14** football strip.

All examples clearly show that, because of their popular appeal, football and/or football players can indeed influence social conflict or processes.

Football is no social vacuum, but rather one sector of the social and cultural system, imbedded in an overall system of social conditions and values. Football may reflect social, political and cultural developments, as well as collective longings and conflicts. Thus, it can show up changes in social structure and social rules.

Football influences politics, and vice-versa politics are reflected in the stadiums.