



DEUTSCHER  
FUSSBALL-BUND

## The Large Piece of Turf

Contemporary Art in the Public Domain

**06.05.2006 - 09.07.2006**

An exhibition organised by the City of Nuremberg  
and the German Football Association

During a joint press conference on 4 October, 2005, the City of Nuremberg and the German Football Association presented their exhibition project "The Large Piece of Turf – Contemporary Art in the Public Domain". Together with the representatives of the City of Nuremberg, Lord Mayor Dr. Ulrich Maly, and Deputy Mayor in Charge of Cultural Affairs, Prof. Dr. Julia Lehner, the Chief Executive of the German Football Association, Dr. Theo Zwanziger, Christoph Karbacher, in charge of art and culture for the FIFA World Cup organising committee, and Raimar Stange, one of the exhibition curators, signalled the "kick-off" for this exhibition.

The exhibition "The Large Piece of Turf" is the World Cup City of Nuremberg's central cultural project. This project of "art in the public domain" will be implemented for the Football World Cup 2006 by curators Raimar Stange (Berlin) and Florian Waldvogel (Frankfurt a.M.). The content will be loosely inspired by Dürer's watercolour "Das große Rasenstück" ["The Tall Grass"] (1503), centring on topics such as "turf", "sports", and, of course, above all "football". It will take into account Nuremberg's urban situation – mainly its history and architecture – as well as aspects of sustainability and the integration of the city's population. Furthermore the artists presented will fathom the possibilities of art in the public domain at the beginning of the new millennium. What can art achieve in the public domain, how political may or must it be, how aesthetically refined or, at the other end of the spectrum, how populist, entertaining, even decorative does it have to be?

The project will focus the artistic spotlight on very varied spaces and contexts in the public domain. Artists invited include Munich art professor, Olaf Metzel who will create a work for the Main Market Square, documenta participant Olaf Nicolai, Frankfurt artist Silke Wagner, Cologne artist Alexandra Bircken and British artist Jonathan Monk who are presently all working on specific designs.



Some artists have already submitted very concrete suggestions. Romanian Dan Perjovschi, who recently raised a lot of public interest with his "Naked Drawings" in Cologne Museum Ludwig, will be a kind of "writer in residence" all over the city during the entire exhibition period. He will produce little chalk "annotations" on the World Cup, on football, on the city of Nuremberg and its history and on current political affairs, drawing them with chalk on various buildings, walls, streets and pavements.

Rirkrit Tiravanija, honoured with the 2004 Hugo Boss Prize of the New York Guggenheim Museum, will create a "Cookery Book for Half Time" for the Nuremberg exhibition, containing various international recipes. Tiravanija thus overcomes the separation of producing artist and consuming visitor which otherwise characterises the (art) market.

Neville Gabie has been dealing with football for years. His artist's book "Posts" shows photographs of goal posts taken during extensive travels all over the world. Gabie is not interested in commercial pitches, but in improvised football fields which give precise testimony of their social context. In Nuremberg, he will show his pictures on large advertising billboards in the public domain for the first time. He will contrast his international motifs with pictures taken of goal posts in Nuremberg.

The artists invited will take a close look at the urban and the historical atmosphere "on site" and will transform it through their work, sometimes with a critical eye, sometimes with obvious relish. In this sense, the "Large Piece of Turf" will present aesthetic works which – because of the intensive scrutiny of and interaction with the given local and social framework – will be exemplary works of art with a lasting effect.

On the axis between the main train station and the castle, the "well trodden path" of all Nuremberg visitors, between 6 May and 9 July, 2006, there will be a series of spectacular as well as rather pensive, quiet works, forming an unusual contrast to the homely medieval backdrop of the city. For the first time in many years, the Football World Cup will give Nuremberg an opportunity of an intensive look at international contemporary art in the public domain.

The exhibition is organised by the City of Nuremberg in conjunction with the German Football Association. The German Football Association sponsors this project with a sum of 250,000 Euros. "The Large Piece of Turf – Contemporary Art in the Public Domain" is **the** central event of Nuremberg's cultural support programme for the World Cup.

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