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Rodrigo Oliveira, *Eurobuzz*, 2007  
Site-specific installation at Place de La Chapelle

## “Eurobuzz”

by **RODRIGO OLIVEIRA (Pt)**  
Place de La Chapelle, Brussels

**October – December 2007**

**Agorafolly / europalia.europa Festival**

An initiative of europalia.europa Festival in  
partnership with Camões Institute

The young artist **Rodrigo Oliveira** (b. 1978, Sintra/Portugal) is the Portuguese participant in the public art event that europalia.europa Festival has launched in its most recent edition regarding the contemporary arts. It’s “Agorafolly”: an art walk that connects 27 squares and markets in the city of Brussels, bringing back the Greek *Agora* (the public *square*) as the meeting point of public sphere, a convivial space, and for that same reason, the most important place for citizenship. Rodrigo Oliveira’s proposal results precisely from that reflection over spaces, equipments and objects related with citizenship.

*“Eurobuzz” is a site-specific installation composed by two articulated buses that are linked in a mirroring situation, losing their mobility function. The displacement of both objects and the further rearrangement create that immobility condition, and doubling them originates two different and opposite directions. It seems that they are fighting to go in opposite ways. The Bus is the most symbolic collective transportation that links people of various communities and places, bringing together their different expectations in the same path. At Place de La Chapelle they would be strange inhabitants of that eclectic meeting point offering new ways of using urban equipment. Their interior can be seen through the windows, which will be used as display surfaces (buzz surfaces), revealing different possibilities from inside-out. The façades would be intervened so that we’ll have a single bus composed by different parts. It will be a composite bus, like Europe itself. As a site-specific project, the Eurobuzz takes in account the fact that this square is located in one of the most popular neighbourhoods, mixing people that use the Fritures shop, the antiques shop, the design stores or the several restaurants in that area, calling our attention for the subtle but existing frontier between different zones of the city and its citizens. (Rodrigo Oliveira)*

The “Agorafolly” contest was made through each State Member’s choice of the artist (in the Portuguese case, through the Camões Institute, that invited curator Lúcia Marques for that matter), and Europalia also confirmed that choice after the due analyses of the artist portfolio. For Europalia, the chosen artist should have “between 18 and about 30 years old”, and be a “promising talent” e “preferably with experience of open-air exhibitions”. The organisation asked for young artists to create “the emblematic European artwork of the future”, following the thread of *emblematic European art works* in the core of the 21<sup>st</sup> europalia.europa Festival.

After the deserved success that he had in the *7 Artists on the 10<sup>th</sup> month* show (at CAMJAP of Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, 2005/2006) and the excellent reception

that his works had after the finalists exhibition of Chelsea College of Art & Design (London, 2006), Rodrigo Oliveira has revealed itself as the most interesting choice for this initiative. The artist works deals precisely with space as place of encounter between the pre-existing elements and the artist personal expectations. He continuously tests its limits until it becomes, indeed, a negotiated zone, that is, a place where different realities can coexist without self-erasing.

Lúcia Marques, independent curator  
(collaborator of Camões Institute for the Portuguese Presidency)

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