

Issue 2 · Spring 2009

ELOGUE

Tactical Objects

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Uli Westphal

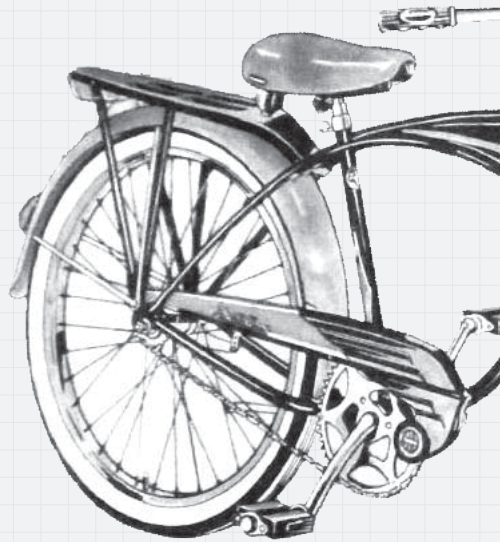
Robin Watkins

& Nina Canell

Liam Campbell

Bek Coogan &

Torben Tilly



Tactical Objects

Travelogue is an art-zine which reflects on moments of process, research and reflection in art and writing. Composed of

small representations of studio-research, fragments of writing, sketches, and found images and texts, it attempts to mediate upon core themes concerned with material and semantic movements, transformations, slippages and re-workings.

As a document, *Travelogue* charts these movements, fragments and reflections, utilising the personalised and economical format of the 'zine' as a method of operation and distribution. *Travelogue* is available in both print and electronic formats: as a freely available PDF from the publication website, and in limited print editions which are distributed by post, by one-to-one contact, and to be found in a selected number of art spaces and related locations in Ireland and Germany.

Issue 2: Tactical Objects, concerns the re-use and re-appraisal of objects in daily life and in artistic circumstances. What we are presented with is a series of momentary negotiations with the material world: in the documentation of real life practices of *bricolage* and imaginative re-use, documentation which can provide a suggestion of alliances in artistic practice; in the concentration on an object or collection of objects, colouring them with skewed interpretations that script new appraisals and meanings; even in the occasional interrogation of the very substance of this publication - both its material and its stylistic expression.

All contributions consider the objects surrounding us as unfixed constructions: while material and solid, they contain an innate fluidity at the point of our own interaction. They can be endlessly re-structured, re-utilised, re-appraised, and re-thought.

Other *Travelogue* Issues:

Travelogue 1: Shadow Perimeters
Published July 2008

Travelogue 3: Nomadic Places
Published Late 2009

Travelogue 4: The Persistence of Ghosts
Published Mid 2010

Liam Campbell
From *Allotments Series*
(Photography)





Uli Westphal
*A Short Guide to the Museum of
Supernatural History*

Introduction

Welcome to the Museum of Supernatural History. With more than 2000 unique objects in its botanical, zoological, mineralogical, chemical and technological collections, and its exhibition hall with an area of over 1000 m², and nearly 3000 national sub-branches*, the Museum of Supernatural History is one of the most influential institutions of its kind in Germany.

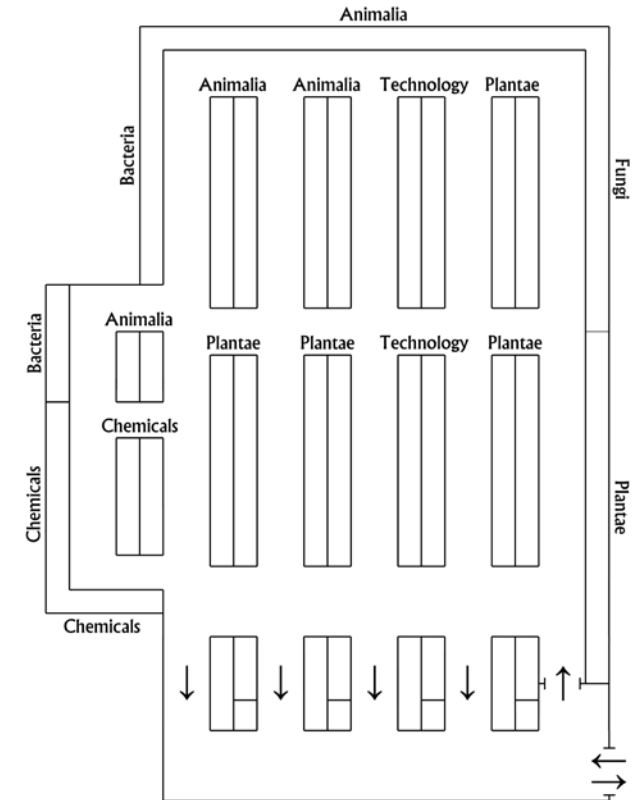
The term supernatural thereby doesn't refer to the paranormal, but to the superiority of the biological species and chemical compounds displayed. We believe that, contrary to the traditional Museum of Natural History (instead of looking backwards to the evolutionary history of life), it is far more crucial to concentrate on the evolutionary future of life on our planet, under the guidance of humanity. Our Collections therefore contain a closer selection of species that form the basis of the life on which our civilization thrives.

Most of the specimens on display co-evolved with us over a period of up to ten thousand years, thereby generating forms and features that make them well adapted and significant to our human needs and prosperity. As a worldwide effort to promote the growth and dominance of these species we actively engage in breeding-programs and genetic engineering, both through financial support as well as through our own production facilities.

The Collection

The collection of the Museum of Supernatural History can be briefly divided into one major and two minor thematic elements: The larger part deals with the biological world, while the two minor parts address chemistry and technology.

The exhibition is thereby not strictly separating between these three distinctive themes, but is classified according to the objects specific functionality and use to mankind. The biological collection contains well over 100 different species from all continents, excluding Antarctica.



The east wing of the Museum, stretching from the entrance to its north end is dedicated to processed liquids deriving predominantly from the kingdom of Plantae. It has however in its rear end a large section on the various forms of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, which is part of the Fungi kingdom. Facing this wall display is an open section on living plants, including only one instance of fungus, *Agaricus bisporus*.

The north end of the museum, along with its north eastern quarter is dedicated to the animal kingdom. The class of Mammalia is represented by its three essential species: *Sus scrofa*, *Bos taurus* and *Ovis aries*. The class of Aves is dominated by two species: *Gallus gallus* and *Meleagris gallopavo*, but also contain instances of *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Anser anser* and occasionally the more exotic *Struthio camelus*. The section about water dwelling creatures in the bottom of the north-eastern quarter contains a wider variety of Actinopterygii and a few representatives of the phylum of Mollusca and the subphylum of Crustacea.

Most specimens are represented through anatomical samples and dissections. We believe that this way of displaying the organisms gives the visitor a more adequate and essential understanding of their functionality. To compensate for the lack of information on the actual appearance of these creatures, many displays show an artists rendition of the animals in their natural habitats along with the actual anatomical sample. The majority of the exhibition on the animal kingdom is stored in acclimatised cabinets to improve the samples longevity.

Along the eastern border of the animal exhibit is a larger section devoted to the order of Lactobacillales dwelling in secretions of *Bos taurus* and *Ovis aries*. The lower east side of the Museum compromises, under the heading of Chemistry, an exhibition on a multitude of minerals, acids, bases, chemical compounds and petrochemical handiworks. The lower south part has three further sections, predominantly on the kingdom of Plantae, composed out of various hybrid-conglomerations of plants and chemicals, sorted partly by their level of saccharose, sodium chloride and CAS# 9005-25-8. Finally, throughout the centre isles of the museum there is a weekly changing exhibition on everyday culture and technological innovation, reflecting the current state and advancement of civilization.



The Museum of Supernatural History is dedicated to the present and our near future. For this reason our archives and exhibits are updated on a daily basis, with specimens being constantly replaced before their shelf-life expires.

Each kind of object on display is shown in a multitude, with the number of replicas indicating either the objects supernatural abundance or its significance and beneficial qualities to society.

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* <http://www.discounter-in-deutschland.de/kette/Lidl.html>

Lee Welch

(PREVIOUS)

A space without a use,
paper, 29.7 x 21 cm, 2009.

(OPPOSITE)

Schwinn Ad,
paper, 29.7 x 21 cm, 1953.

(FOLLOWING)

I will show you fear...,
paper, 29.7 x 21 cm, 2009.

I will show you fear

in a handful of dust

†††

paper
Recyconomic 80 g/m2

A space without a use
Perec, G. (1999) "Species of Spaces and Other Pieces", London: Penguin Books.

"the luminous dimness, a silence which teaches secretly, a flashing darkness which is neither body nor shape, which has no quantity, no quality, no weight, which is not in a place and does not see, has no sensitivity, is neither number nor order nor greatness, is not a substance, not eternity, not time, not obscurity, not error, not light, not truth"

Rolt, C.E. (2004) "Dionysius the Areopagite on the Divine Names and the Mystical Theology" Paris : Ibis Press.

Schwinn Ad
Schwinn Bicycle Advertisement, 1953

After Cassius Clay's bike was stolen, in the month of October 1954, when he was twelve, his whole life destiny changed in an instant. Cassius was riding on his new Schwinn, accompanied by his friend Johnny Willis. The two boys went to the Louisville Home Show where free hot dogs and popcorn were being served. They stayed at the auditorium for part of the afternoon. When leaving, Cassius discovered that his bicycle had been stolen and was immediately in a tearing rage.

Someone finally directed Cassius to a policeman named Joe Martin, who ran a boxing program in the Columbia Auditorium Gym. He went in demanding a statewide bike hunt and threatening to beat the hell out of whoever had stolen it. Martin asked Cassius if he could fight, and Cassius said no, so Martin invited him to come to the gym and learn how to box, so he could get pay back on the bicycle thief. This was the starting point in Muhammad Ali's boxing career.

I will show you fear...
Eliot, T.S. (1962) "The Waste Land and Other Poems" London : Harvest Books.

Donne, J. (1999) "Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions and Death's Duel" New York : Vintage.

FLAMINEO:
Nothing; of nothing: leave thy idle questions.
I am i' th' way to study a long silence:
To prate were idle. I remember nothing.
There's nothing of so infinite vexation
As man's own thoughts.

Webster, John (1612). "The White Devil, or Vittoria Corombona: a Tragedy"
London: Thomas Archer.

Robin Watkins
& Nina Canell

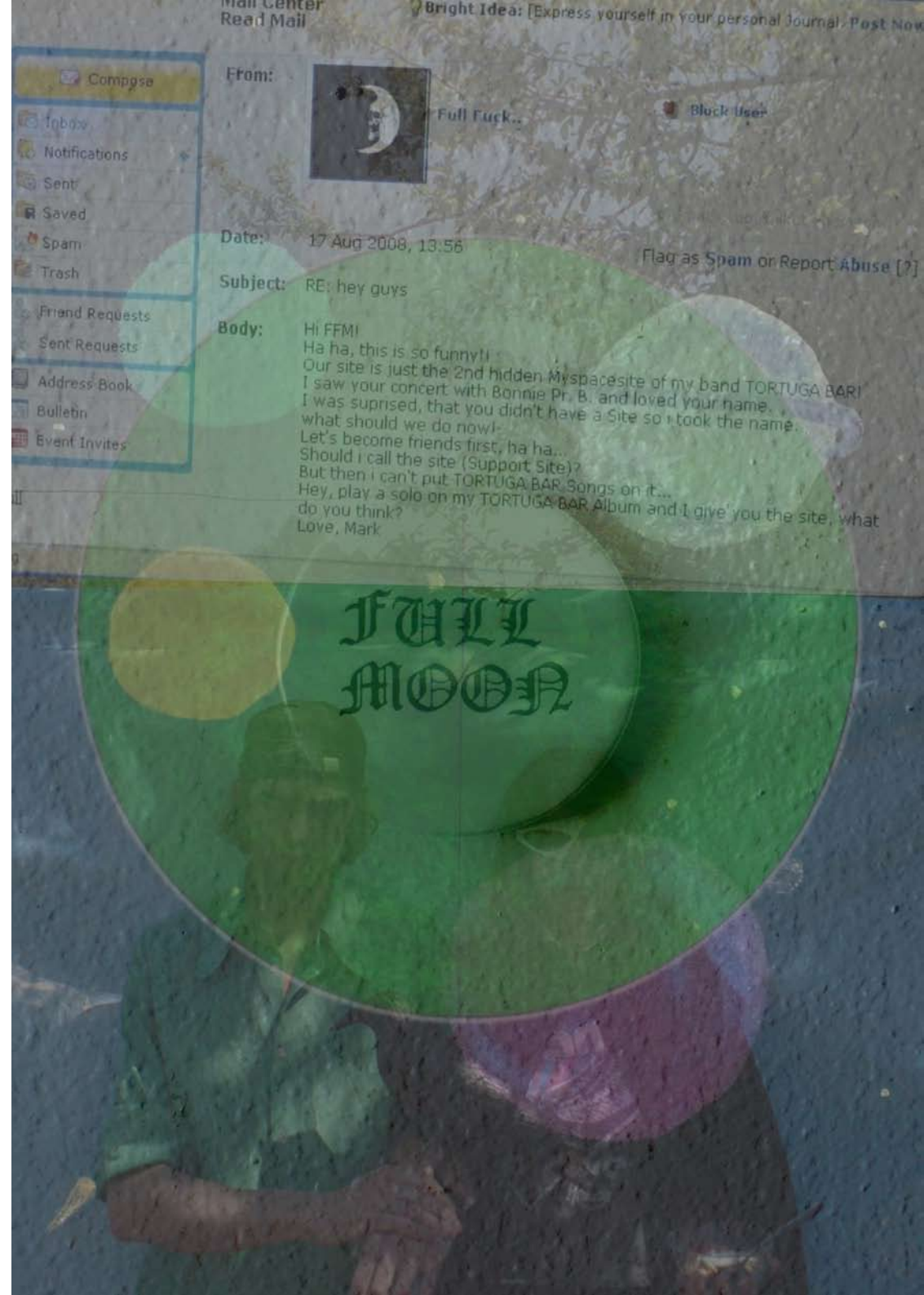
Opposite Page: 31.08.2008
Mount Mudeungsan, South Korea

Web Page:
<http://www.canellwatkins.org/04.12.2007.html>
Atlas Mountains, Morocco

As encountered by the artists



Bek Coogan
& Torben Tilly
*On The Subject of Fate
and the Destiny of Objects*



a list in order of appearances and disappearances

1. Glow-in-the-dark full moon sticker

Found object
26 x 26cm

Discovered during an interior decoration job in Accrington, United Kingdom, 16th July 2006; cut in half in Palmerston North, New Zealand; one half sent by post to the Northern Hemisphere in October 2006; both halves re-united in Berlin, Germany 3th July 2007

2. Space Painting

Found object
Acrylic on canvas
32 x 34 cm

Purchased in a second-hand shop in Hataitai, Wellington, New Zealand, October 2006; sent to Berlin by post, May 2008

3. Full Moon badge (white)

Found object
3 x 3 cm

One of two badges emblazoned in a simple black gothic font with the words 'Full Moon' (one on a blue background, the other on white), purchased in a second hand shop in Milan, 10th July 2007

4. Full Moon 'First Promo Photo'

Lost digital image

Photographed using a mobile phone by Tomi Leppaenen in Scheer, Germany, 4th August 2007

5. Full Fucking Moon 'Promo Photo'

Digital photo

Photographed using a mobile phone by Tomi Leppaenen in Scheer, Germany, 5th August 2007

6. Full Moon badge (blue)

Lost object

3 x 3 cm

Lost on the premises of Clärchens Ballroom, Berlin, 3rd April 2008

7. 'United Aryan Evil' by Full Moon

Audio CD in case

12 x 12 x 1cm

Black Metal band from Poland. The demo tape was released in Poland in 1995, this CD edition released in 2005. Received from Jussi Lehtisalo in Pori, Finland, 11th September 2008.

8. Web-page, Myspace inbox

Digital image

Correspondence between myspace.com/fullfckngmoon and myspace.com/fullfuckingmoon on 5th August 2008 [1], and 17th August [2] respectively

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[1] "Tuesday 5th August 2008. Crescent moon. Intensity of attraction could spark jealous possessiveness", Minerva Baker & Arafelle Oné, 2008 Moon Calendar (Auckland: 15th Edition Creative Cronies / Moon Calendar Productions), p.102

[2] "Sunday 17th August 2008. Partial moon eclipse; Aquarius full moon. Eclipse may be visible as the moon is setting in the early hours. Ponder the outcome of actions related to the solar eclipse two weeks ago" Ibid., p.105

[Disclaimer: the artists known as Full Fucking Moon in no way condone, or endorse, the content or the messages conveyed by the band Full Moon]

Impres- sions

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TRAVEL