

ALEXANDRE FARTO | *Even if you win the rat race, you're still a rat*

Vera Cortês, Agência de Arte

Inauguração dia 9 de Janeiro às 22h

De dia 10 de Janeiro a dia 21 de Fevereiro 2008

Terça a sexta das 11h às 19h

Sábado das 15h às 20h

Alexandre Farto (aka Vhils) é um artista que tem vindo a construir um percurso que faz confluir dinamicamente uma plasticidade intensa com um pensamento social e político provocador e directo. Apesar de muitos dos seus trabalhos apresentarem slogans e statements claros e directos, a afirmação política do seu trabalho subverte a ideia de que o político se dá por comunicação – aqui, o político *faz-se*: desde já, desde o primeiro minuto, desde o desejo que cria uma imagem. Esta força inerente ao seu trabalho cresceu com o próprio artista: uma história de vida ligada à observação e à intervenção no espaço urbano, como um operário silencioso que reconhece e evidencia em cada superfície a humanidade que ela reclama, esconde ou esmaga – Alexandre Farto concentrou-se desde cedo num trabalho sistemático de encontro entre dois universos crescentemente afastados: a cidade e os que nela habitam – o anónimo faz-se espelho.

Se, anteriormente, Alexandre Farto desenvolveu um trabalho sobre o rosto – dar rosto, o dom do rosto, o rosto como limite e lugar de violência e renovação –, o seu trabalho actual realiza como que um regressar ao ponto inicial: a cidade – o lugar do comum, onde os rostos se diluem e se constituem a partir de um sistema abstracto de criação de *individualidades standard* – o lugar em que o *comum* e a *comunidade* se tornam continuamente conceitos quase inconciliáveis. O rosto da cidade, diríamos, torna-se agora matéria de um trabalho de evidenciação da densidade humana que a constitui, das fragilidades que compõem as suas relações, os seus percursos, das direcções dos olhares e das palavras que se cruzam diariamente em cada não-lugar. Regressar, ou antes, reconfigurar a cidade enquanto *lugar* – relacional, histórico, centrado em identidades (M. Augé). Transformar esta problemática do dar rosto a, da criação de lugares, numa questão latente em cada objecto e em cada elemento da cidade – os lugares podem ser transparentes, dar passagem de uns para os outros, dar entrada a habitantes inesperados, estranhos à sua planificação e administração.

Na Agência de Arte Vera Cortês, Alexandre Farto apresenta a sua primeira exposição individual. Sobre a demasiado evidente questão acerca do espaço expositivo e das intenções do seu trabalho, Alexandre responde com a simplicidade inquietante que caracteriza o seu

trabalho: este é também um espaço da cidade, cujas paredes podemos escavar até à transparência ou, pelo menos, até à porosidade que permite o indivíduo que entra.

«Even if you win the rat race, you're still a rat» - o poder sobre o outro é uma ilusão que resulta da opacidade das paredes que colocamos em nosso redor.

Cíntia Gil

Com o apoio de:



ALEXANDRE FARTO | *Even if you win the rat race, you're still a rat*

Vera Cortês, Art Agency

Opening January 9th at 22h

From January 10th to February 21st 2008

Tuesdays to Fridays from 11h to 19h

Saturdays from 15h to 20h

Alexandre Farto (aka Vhils) is an artist who has been building an artistic path in which an intense plasticity, a provocative and direct social and political thought dynamically converge. Although many of his works feature direct and clear slogans and statements, the political statements in his work subvert the idea that the political dimension is revealed through communication – here, the political dimension *is something to be made*: starting from now, from the first minute, from the very moment in which desire creates an image. This strength that is intrinsic to his work is the result of the artist's own development: a life story associated with the observation and intervention in the urban space, as a silent worker that recognizes and emphasizes the humanity claimed, hidden or crushed by each surface – since the beginning of his career, Alexandre Farto has focused on a systematic work that involves the meeting of two universes that are increasingly growing apart: the city and its inhabitants – anonymity becomes a mirror.

Alexandre Farto previously developed a body of work about the face – to give a face, the gift of a face, the face as the limit and the place of violence and regeneration –; his present work features a sort of return to his initial starting point: the city – the common place, where faces are diluted and are constituted on the basis of an abstract system that creates *standard individuals* – the place where the *common* and the *community* are continuously becoming almost irreconcilable concepts. We might say that now the face of the city becomes the subject of a work that emphasizes the human density of which it is made; the weaknesses underlying its relationships, its paths; and the directions of the looks and words that meet every day in each non-place. To return, or rather, to reconfigure the city as a *place* – a relational, historical place centered on identities (M. Augé). To transform the issue of giving a face to, of creating places, into a question that is latent in every object and element of the city – places can be transparent, they can give passage from one to the other, they can allow the entrance of unexpected inhabitants, strangers to their planning and administration.

Alexandre Farto presents his first solo exhibition at the Vera Cortês Art Agency. Faced with the only too evident questions about the exhibition space and the intentions of his work,

Alexandre answers with the disquieting simplicity that characterizes his work: this is also a space of the city, and we can excavate its walls until transparency has been attained or, at least, until they are porous enough to allow for the entering individual.

«Even if you win the rat race, you're still a rat» - the power over the other is an illusion that results from the opacity of the walls we place around us.

Cíntia Gil

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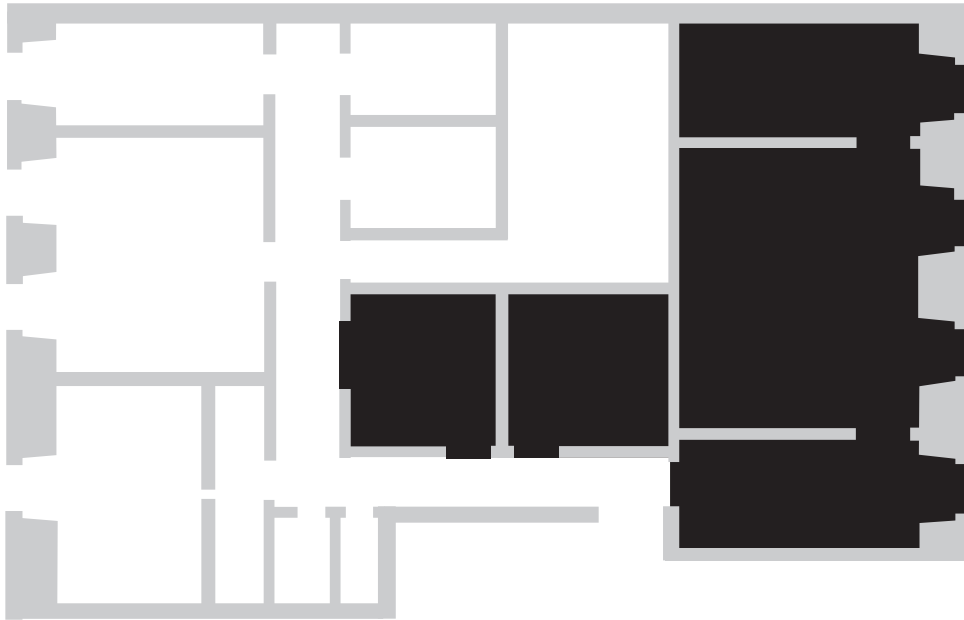


Alexandre Farto

**Even if you win the rat race,
you're still a rat**

vera cortés, art agency

from 10th january to 21st of february 2009



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exhibition views



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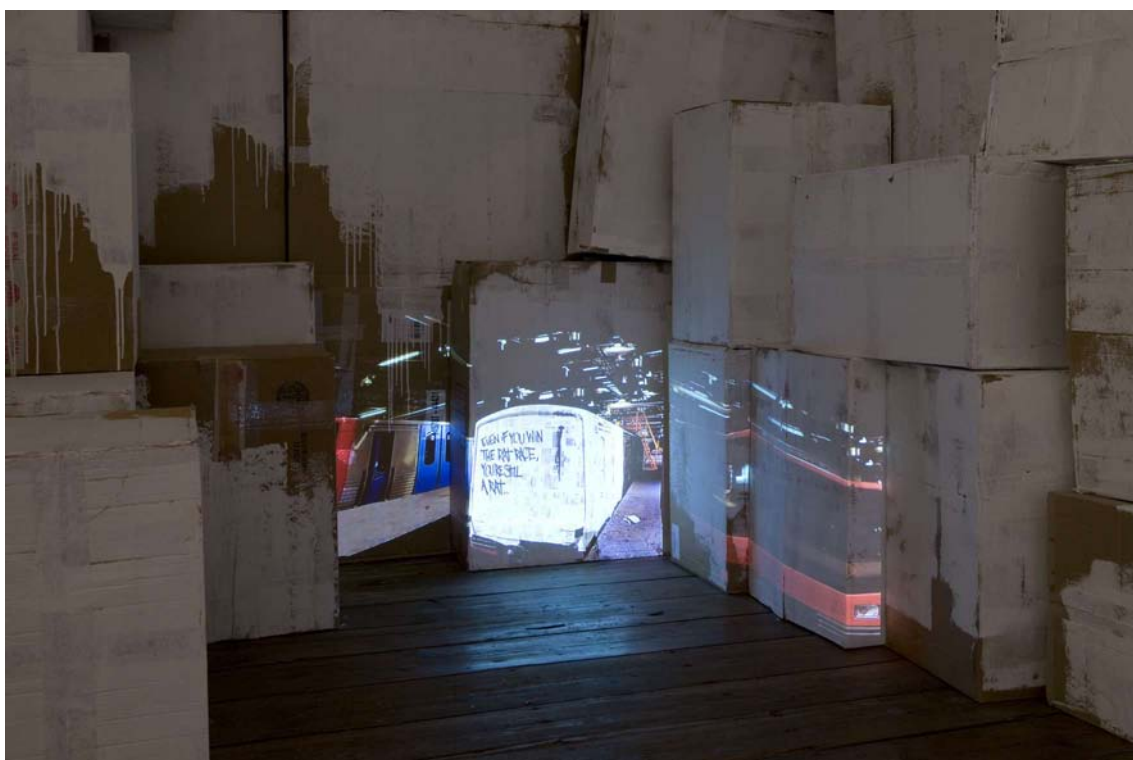
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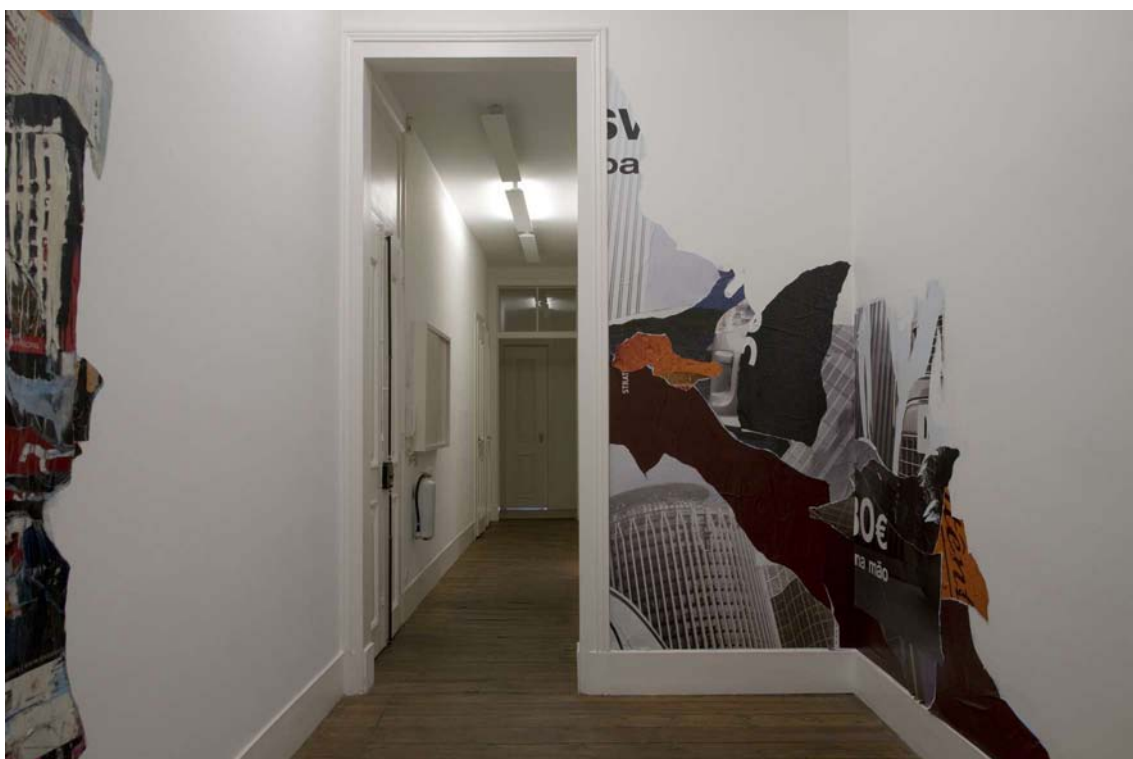


Even if you win the rat race, you're still a rat | 2008 | site specific | cardboard boxes, white paint, still image projection

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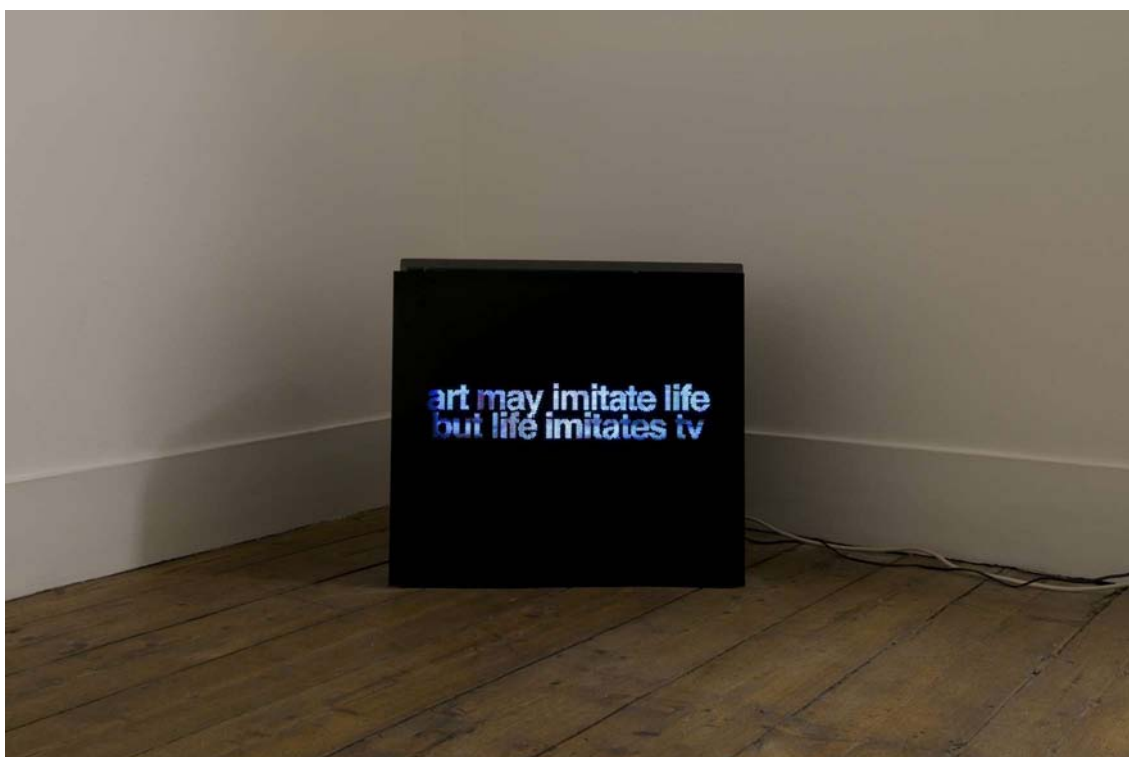
exhibition views



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Art may imitate life, but life imitates tv | 2008 | 57 cm X 64cm X 47 cm | tv, pvc stencil, DVD (colour, sound, 4:3, 20', loop)

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from the series Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of a cancer cell | 2008 | aprox. 180 x 160 cm | layered posters removed from the streets, paint, resin and fibre glass

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