

# Drap Art: Recycle it!

Last December the Centre for Contemporary Culture of Barcelona (CCCB) held the Drap-Art, International Creative Recycling Festival.



At the CCCB we found a variety of activities including: 'interventions in space', *performances*, a collective exhibition, a fashion show, projections, concerts, round tables and a market. A comprehensive event focusing on the world of recycling and reusable materials.

Artists from various countries participated in the Drap-Art exhibition to show their work. Darja Voss from Holland was happy to wander around the streets of Barcelona, although after 15 years she found it had changed a lot. *«The mixture that you find in the Gothic quarter, the friendliness of the people and the flamenco atmosphere enrich the cultural quality of the city. But things are changing and care must be taken not to let increasing prices drive the people out of the centre as it would be a great shame to lose all this.»* Darja arrived at the exhibition after a previous selection process.

The work she was showing at the CCCB was an African diary. A diary created out of pieces of rubbish.

*«Africa is a society that recycles; the people are poor, so they reuse everything they can; once, twice, even three or four times.»*

*An empty tomato tin becomes a saltcellar, and then it is turned into a watering can for the plants, until eventually the object becomes unusable rubbish.»*

This is when Darja picks up the objects to make the diary we can see today in the CCCB, but perhaps tomorrow it

will be used in another way: the object and its usefulness have no end. At the exhibition we also saw the work of Antonio Moyano who, although originally from Majorca, has spent much of his life in Barcelona and London, and now lives in Berlin. He uses his own clothes to make new creations, but he doesn't just recycle at a purely material level; Antonio always turns his own work inside out, and by changing the point of view he also produces internal recycling. *«Barcelona is a progressive city that until very recently formed part of a developing country; today the standard of living is rising and there are far more means available for creativity.»*

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The market in the Hall was full of colour. Julia, from Germany, had taken part in the festival the previous year. She supposed that her work had been discovered through the *RestCycling Festival Berlin*, the biggest festival of recycled art in Europe. «*When I came here the first time I fell in love with a small, welcoming city, its rich culture and most of all; its sea*», she told us. On her stand we found rings made out of pieces from computer keyboards that she had found in the street, earrings created out of a pack of Russian playing cards or from a soup brand label. «*I just play around with things that I see in the street, in a cupboard, on a plane...anything that attracts my attention*», she tells us.



On the other side of the hall, there is an older man, Roland Dupuy, a French cabinetmaker who dedicates his spare time to the art of marquetry. He uses pieces of wood left over from his work to create decorative objects. For Roland this recycled art event in Barcelona is nothing new, nine years earlier he came to the first Drap Art. «*I like Barcelona, there is a strong presence of contemporary art in the streets, while at the same time, the facades of its buildings still reek of the past. In Paris contemporary art is not so present, it's a shame.*»

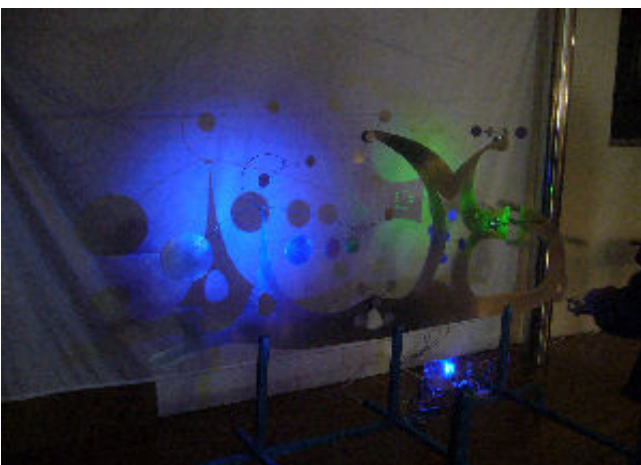
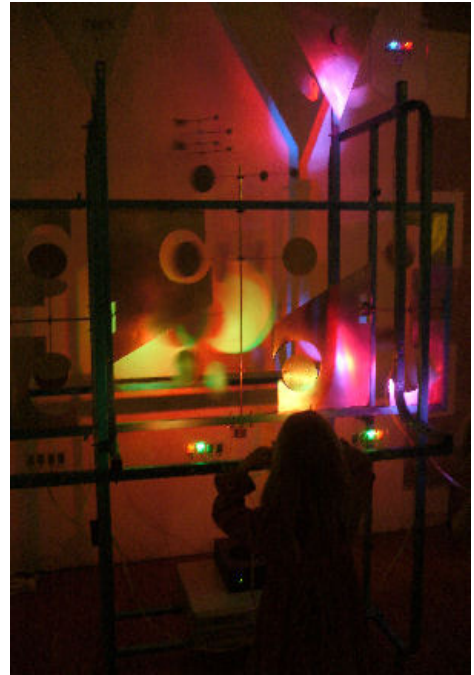


For anyone who had not had enough after the market and the exhibition, they could then go on to the C3BAR to listen, for example, to the indie group «My name is Ann» from the Czech Republic, who, with their pop music, recycle real sounds, everything from the most everyday sounds to speeches by Gorbachov. «*Barcelona is continuing the tradition started by John Cage: to be open to noise in order to create music. The most interesting aspect of this is that here there is a very wide universe that can be used*», they tell us.



The round tables enable the spectators to find out more about the art of recycling and in the workshops they get the chance to put into practice their new-found knowledge such as the creation of percussion instruments under the guidance of Diego Ain who previously had shown us his musical skills with a «street» drum solo.

So all in all, Drap Art 2006 was an experience that was both fun and useful Congratulations!







**DRAP ART**  
<http://www.drapart.org>