DESCRIPTIONS OF WORKS

*Text excerpts from Ahmet Öğüt's website

Guppy 13 vs Ocean Wave; a Bas Jan Ader Experience

Guppy 13 is one of the smallest pocket cruisers, made by Melen Marine Ltd. in California. Only about 300 were produced between 1974 and 1975. Guppy 13 is the exact same model as Dutch artist Bas Jan Ader's boat 'Ocean Wave', which he had used in his attempt to cross the Atlantic Ocean in 1975 when he eventually disappeared. The boat was found unmanned and partially submerged 150 miles off the coast of Ireland by a Spanish fishing vessel in 1976. It was taken to La Coruña, Spain for investigation. A few weeks later, the boat was stolen and never found again.

Ahmet Öğüt found the same type of sailboat that Ader used, a Guppy 13. He bought it and had it shipped to Amsterdam. He then invited visitors to live through Bas Jan Ader's experience in this sailboat on Amsterdam's waters, albeit only for a few minutes. The only rule was that everybody had to get on the sailboat by themselves. So, Öğüt re-created exactly the same physical conditions of Bas Jan Ader's experience. In the video, we see a fictional documentary, in which Guppy 13 sails backwards to start from the end of its uncompleted journey. When we look closely, we notice that the single passenger on Guppy 13 is constantly changing. The music we listen to while watching the video is a Henry Russell composition playing backwards, which was part of Bas Jan Ader's last project. In a way, it is a documentary of a journey backwards in time.

Öğüt's Guppy 13 was stolen in Amsterdam and he found it 4 months later. Eventually this temporary disappearance became part of the final work.

7th of May 2010
Guppy 13, purchased from Zakry Standerfer and shipped from USA, arrived to the Netherlands.

28th of June 2010
Guppy 13 was stolen in Amsterdam waters.

16th of October 2010
After 4 months, Guppy 13 was found on Lijnbaansgracht, Amsterdam.

The Castle of Vooruit

Öğüt takes the socialist history of Ghent as the starting point for his contribution to TRACK[1], which is entitled *The Castle of Vooruit*. He concentrates on the Vooruit, the cooperative where the working-class people of Ghent assembled from the end of the nineteenth century until the early 1970s and which ran both a centre for festive occasions and a newspaper. Making reference to *Le Chateau des Pyrénées* (1961) by the Belgian surrealist painter Rene Magritte, Öğüt sent up a gigantic helium balloon in the shape of Magritte's floating rock, launched near the Vooruit Arts Centre. He replaced the mysterious castle on top with a replica of the Vooruit building. Öğüt captured the traces of a set of utopian social ideas in a single surreal image.

1 TRACK was a contemporary art event in Ghent, Belgium, held during the summer of 2012. Artists were invited to create new work that was exhibited throughout the city.

On The Path of Vooruit Universe

In the 'Kuipje', the legendary indoor cycling track in Ghent's Citadel Park, Ahmet Öğüt put on a performance entitled *On The Path of Vooruit Universe* during the opening event on 12 May, 2012. In one compelling action he brought together the history of Ghent, the context of the 'Kuipje' and his personal memories of the acrobatic motorcycle riders of his childhood in Turkey. Seven professional racing cyclists were each given a luminous letter from the word 'vooruit' ('onward'). With this letter mounted on the frame of their racing bikes, they took part in a contest on the track, in the belief that at some random moment they would form the word 'vooruit'. In this performance Öğüt links Ghent's socialist past, social utopia and the concept of progress to the current daily life.

EyeWriter/DIY/arbakir

Ahmet Öğüt went to his hometown Diyarbakir, a Kurdish city in Southeastern Turkey to introduce the EyeWriter. The Eyewriter is a low-cost eye-tracking device for people who are paralyzed and can't communicate in any other way than by using their eyes. The device enables communication. EyeWriter was developed by Members of Free Art and Technology, OpenFrameworks, the Graffiti Research Lab, and The Ebeling Group communities. One EyeWriter costs between $50 and $100 and it is an open source software and device. Anyone can download the instructions for how to build the EyeWriter from the EyeWriter website: www.eyewriter.org/diy/

It can be constructed from easily obtainable objects, including ordinary sunglasses, some IR led lights and standard computer webcamera.

Öğüt wrote the <www.eyewriter.org/diy> by hand on $50 and $1 bills and distributed them using the tradition of a "money shower" in 5 different random weddings in Diyarbakir. He would do the money shower with $1 bills and pin $50 bills on the groom.

Öğüt won one of the Special Prizes of the Future Generation Art Prize 2012 with this project. He donated the Special Prize money to the EyeWriter Team to help move the EyeWriter project forward and get EyeWriters to the people who need them.

This area is under 23 hour video and audio surveillance

This original sign documents an installation project in which Öğüt placed official-looking signs in several outdoor locations around St. Louis, Missouri. The signs state "This area is under 23 hour video and audio surveillance." The project focuses on the predominance of surveillance culture and the gaps that question privacy and mediation.