



Don't purchase a better world,
fight for a better world

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A billboard/digital print by Oliver Ressler

2008



"Don't purchase a better world, fight for a better world". Installation view: "We will beg for nothing, we will ask for nothing. We will take, we will occupy" (solo show), Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo – CAAC, Seville, 2015

Gated communities seem to emerge primarily in countries with big differences in income among people and where governments show no real effort in redistributing wealth. Post-socialist Poland and especially Warsaw seem to be very fertile grounds for social disintegration and segregation, which leads to the development of gated communities at an unbelievable pace. For people who choose to live in gated communities, the reduction of uncertainty and disturbing factors seem to be of extraordinary importance.

The image shows a typical façade of a gated community from the perspective of someone standing in the street. It shows the fences, the cabin of the security guards, and the posh architecture.

The irritating feature of the building is that most windows are broken. The broken windows can be seen as a rupture of the imagined stability and safety of a gated community. The images of broken windows and the graffiti have been photographed in poor and abandoned areas in Warsaw. The graffiti on the building reads: "Donkeys from right to left tell lie to people."

Through this montage, the photo brings together the living areas of the haves and the have-nots. Associations with an uprising or a militant struggle may be evoked



"Don't purchase a better world, fight for a better world". Installation view: "The Plundering" (solo show), Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, 2014 (photo: Reinhard Haider)



"Don't purchase a better world, fight for a better world". Installation view: "subversiv - Raum für Alternativen", GrazMuseum, Graz, 2015

A Polish version of this billboard (504 x 238 cm) was part of the Passengers Festival in Warsaw, September 2008.

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