

The Power of Power and the making of a Symbol

Installation, 2005

Wood, paint, video, prints and drawings



The Power of Power and the making of a symbol as installed at Extra City

In 2005 I was caught in front of the television for a whole night watching English elections on BBC. There were lots of charts, colours and speculation. The predicted outcome of the current election was repeatedly being compared to the results of past elections while the actual results, county by county, were being revealed. The English election system is complex and hard to explain, and for this reason there was a constant splash of 3D virtual illustrations superimposed on the screen. In this overly saturated display, the only thing clear was the colour representing each party. At the time I was already working on a study of European flags– analyzing and describing them in words according to form and colour. I Became curious about the relationship between people’s obsession with colour coding and the meaning attributed to this colour system.



One out of the 16 charts.

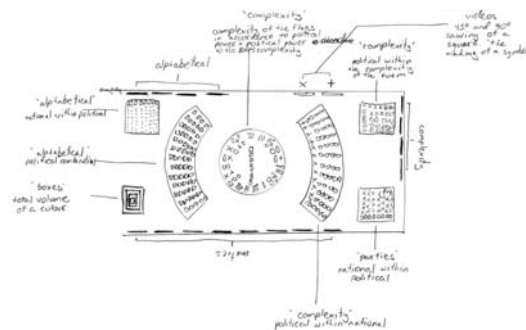
The power of Power and the making of a Symbol is an investigation of the meaning of colours and symbols. It does this on the basis of a case study of the European Union. It examines the complexity of the relation between the permanence of the flag to the temporary nature of a democratic, and thus changing governing coalition.

Specifically, I created divergent systems with which to organize and compare the colours and forms represented in the flags and coalitions of political and national powers. This is how I discovered that, for example, there is more political blue than national blue, while there is more national red than political red; there are more parties represented in a country that has a singular form on their flag, while there is only one party in the country who's flag has the most numerous forms.

Flag = National
 Party = Political

The power of Power is about the making of rules, the implementation of systems and the self-destruction that is inherent in this. Set out concretely, power relations translate at the level of a game. The resulting amass calls to mind miniature battlefields, city landscapes casino paraphernalia, etc.

As a detailed system, *The power of Power and the making of a Symbol* is one massive bureaucratic apparatus which in its form reflects what it represent: a confederation of autonomous and internally multi-hued entities.



On two monitors *The Making of a Symbol* repeatedly shows the subtraction of bits and corners from wooden squares—at different angles—and how through this, a symbol is made.



Screen shots from videos *The making of a symbol 45° and 90°*