

urban occupation : ACTION

research : **Joseph Beuys**



Image: Beuys entering room with Coyote, felt blanket and shepards staff, . **Source:** www.sueddeutsche.de/.../310906/bilder/?img=4.0 (accessed 26th April 1300)

authors / actors / participants:
Joseph Beuys, (Fluxus) coyote,

title: I like America, America likes me

location: Rene Block Gallery, 406 West Broadway NY, USA date: May, 1974

manifesto:

I like America, America likes me has been said to have a layered manifesto. Beuys had strong feelings against the Vietnam War and using the coyote in his action was to remind people of the Coyote Bounty of America in the 1800's where millions of taxpayers dollars were spend on iradicating the animal (analogues to what he saw happening in Vietnam). This action was also to energetically heal or acknowledge the damage and the subsequent wound created between native America and the European mechanistic, materialistic ideology (symbolised by the machine noise and the Wall Street Journal). Beuys was interesting in the indigienous spirituality of native America and the place that the coyote occupied in this belief. The coyote is seen as a spiritual entities, and like a Shaman, Beuys wanted to communicate with it and 'learn how to survive' (1) and to re-open the dialogue with the energetics and spirituality of the pre-European America.

techniques / Cell (set up within Rene Block Gallery), car (as ambulance vehicle) to drive from airport to the gallery.

tools: Felt blankets, flashlight, coyote, gloves, tape recorder with machine turnbine sound, Shepards staff, a musical triangle, stack of hay, 50 copies of the Wall Street Journal newspaper

action: Beuys arrives to the gallery by Ambulance and spends 3 consecutive days in a room with a coyote. Over 3 days he acts out a series of actions, the same routine each day. He starts by hitting all 3 sides of the musical triangle, plays the engine noise, then wrapps himself in felt with a flashlight. The Wall Street Journal is introduced and Beuys sleeps on the coyotes hay.

outcome:

After the 3 days, Beuys leaves the room with the coyote. It was not clear how he left, but one source stated that he never touched American soil other than the gallery, which implies he may have also been escorted by ambulance back to the airport. The felt blankets, staff and triangle were kept and along with the film of the action are currently on exhibition at the Bahnhof Museum Berlin. The action was not done to a large audience at the time, but the documentary film and the subsequent evaluation of the action have exposed, in a very creative a way, what potential damage the 'All American Dream', which can perhaps be called Capitalism , has done.

The action must be viewed in the context of all of Beuys work, where is has an interest in the energy of materials, and in the relationship between dead, alive, animal and human.

urban occupation : ACTION - research : precedents

Parry Caitlyn 324473

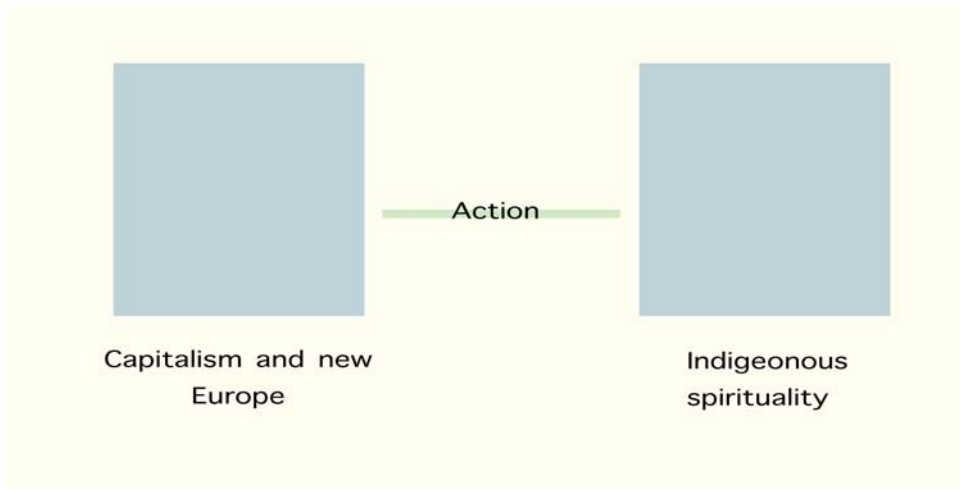


Image: Diagram of action



Image: Beuys wrapped in felt blanket to appear like a Native American tipi and the staff to represent a lightning stike or a shaman mask depicted in a Native American tale. Photographer: Caroline Tisdall London, 2005, . Source: www.tate.org.uk/modern/exhibitions/beuys/

bibliography:

http://www.bockleygallery.com/css/american_beuys.html (accessed 25th April 1600)

www.tate.org.uk/modern/exhibitions/beuys/room4_lg2.shtm (accessed 25th April, 1700)

<http://www.walkerart.org/archive/5/9D43B5DB685147C46167.htm> (accessed 25th April 1700)

www.sueddeutsche.de/.../310906/bilder/?img=4.0 (accessed 26th April 1300)

<http://blip.tv/file/10602> (accessed 25th April 1600)

Humburger Bahnhof Museum, Berlin, Cult of the Artist: BEUYS. We are the Revolution. Visited April 12th