

Art and soccer play a game



Written by Lucille Davie

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Artists have taken the football championships and run with them, creating art while listening to match commentary. And the results are on display.

SOCCER players may be having a ball on the field, but a bunch of artists have been having a ball of a different kind off the field, with paint, brushes and steel boards.

Seventeen artists played against each other in pairs on canvas while watching the UEFA European Championship games in 2009. Each pair contributed to a single artwork, with each artist taking a turn to paint when a whistle was blown. The same exercise is to be repeated in next year's 2010 FIFA World Cup™.

"At the start of the match, rules were negotiated between the artists to determine how they would draw or paint in reaction to the game," says a statement. "What resulted from this exchange was a 90-minute long performative artwork which reflected the specific live soccer match during which it was made."

The result was seven colourful artworks of 2,5 metres by 1,2 metres which are now displayed outside the Arts on Main complex in Berea Street in the CBD. They will remain on display until 2010.

The idea came from a collaboration between Johannesburg artist Marcus Neustetter and Austrian artist Walter Stach in 2008. The two banged ideas around at the Bassline in Newtown last year.

The artists are David Andrew, Brenden Gray, Steven Mabuella, Rhet Martyn, Sengo Shabangu, Jabu Tshuma, Quinten Williams, Rasty or Bruno Buccellato, Philemon Hlungwani, Razik or Mfundu Mkhize, Keabetswe Mokwena, Kinsley Omoghite Asemota, Shime or Shimmy, Daniel Stompie Selibe, and Stacy Vorster. Stach and Neustetter also created works.



Reflections of a football match

The artists also produced seven soccer artworks on canvases, which have been donated to a school in Orange Farm. "The idea to link soccer and art by doing a lot of artistic footwork materialised into an astonishing result and managed to engage communities usually not in dialogue with each other."

The project was sponsored by the Austrian embassy in Pretoria.

Stach has been in the country for the past two weeks, and both he and Neustetter produced drawings based on this year's Confederations Cup during Stach's residency at the project room, Right on the Rim, at Arts on Main in the CBD.

They laid out large sheets of paper and while listening to the soccer commentary from the South Africa-Spain game on Saturday, 20 June, produced several artworks.

These works will be on display at Arts on Main on Saturday, 27 June, where both artists will speak about their collaboration. The exhibition will open at 3pm, and the artists will speak at 6pm.

They will collaborate again next year for the World Cup games.

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The colourful artworks along the walk outside Arts on Main in Berea Street

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CREATIVE ARTS. Stacey Vorster, left of right on the Rim Project Saloon with artist Steven Mabuella and Austrian Ambassador Dr Otto Ditz.

Beautiful game inspires art

FATHIMA ASMAL JANI FOURTEEN professional artists, from South Africa and Austria, this week unveiled seven spectacular paintings at the recently opened Arts on Main studio, in central Johannesburg.

With football fever at its peak, through the Confederations Cup and the 2010 World Cup, the artists had taken advantage of the benefits to be gained from both events by releasing the soccer-inspired paintings created during the Euro 2008 soccer championship. Known as the Art and Soc-

cer project, these beautiful paintings have been displayed on the walls in front of the studio for continuous public viewing, and will continue to be promoted and added to, through the studio's Right on the Rim Project Saloon.

In partnership with the Austrian Embassy, which has supported the project from its inception, the display of the artwork reflects the creative arts commitment to the sports, and celebrates the contribution the artists have made to the City of Johannesburg.

Each painting was worked on by two artists, reflecting the visions and talent of both artists uniquely.



Marcus Neustetter and Walter Stach during the South Africa versus Spain match. Image courtesy of the artists

Artists on the ball

The football bug has bitten the art scene hard and it looks like the bump is here to stay until at least the end of the 2010 Soccer World Cup. Almost every major art institution in the country has their own "football" exhibition in the pipelines, scheduled to coincide with the World Cup, just as many smaller galleries and artists have taken the Confederations Cup as an opportunity to usher in the soccer mania early. The fact of the matter is that football-themed exhibitions are something we're going to have to get used to unless we plan to hibernate or take up philately for the next year. Thankfully, it does seem that some artists will spare us the kids'-party-style themed snorgasboards, offering smaller, more focused (and therefore more interesting), event-based initiatives instead.

Marcus Neustetter and Austrian artist **Walter Stach's** collaborative drawing exercises based on the Fifa 2009 Confederations Cup are a case in point. Stach and Neustetter began their collaboration in 2008 at the time of the Uefa

European Championship. Together they developed a project of dialogical "play" drawing, in which 17 local and Austrian artists participated. As Neustetter explains: "The artists would pair up during each of the major games, 'playing' against each other on the same surface. At the start of the match, rules were negotiated between the artists to determine how they would draw or paint in reaction to the game."

For their Confederations Cup effort, Neustetter and Stach have adopted the same modus operandi. Alone in a parking lot in downtown Johannesburg last Saturday night, they flung open a car boot and drew and painted into the night as they listened to Spain beat South Africa. The products of this exercise will be exhibited at Right on the Rim, a new project space in the Arts on Main complex from June 27. The opening event starts at 4pm and the works will be on display for the following week. — *Anthea Buys*

At Right on the Rim from June 27

Paintings inspired by soccer unveiled

**ARTISTS TO TEAM UP
TO DO SIMILAR WORKS
DURING FIFA 20 10**

Katlego Moeng

SEVEN soccer-inspired paintings were unveiled yesterday on a wall near the Arts on Main gallery on Berea Street, Johannesburg.

Stompie Selibe, 34, was among seven South African artists who collaborated with seven Austrian artists in creating soccer-inspired works during last year's European championships. The artists worked on seven paintings during matches, with world-

renowned Austrian artist Walter Stach.

The works were created during public viewings of Euro 2008 matches in Johannesburg.

"The idea was to have two artists, one local and one Austrian, work on one art piece together," Stach said. He said the artists worked during the live broadcasts of matches.

"We only worked during playing time," Stach explained. "In other words, during two periods of 45 minutes."



HYPNOTISED: An art enthusiast taking a photo of paintings on display by Right on the Rim Project Saloon. The project is run by Art on Main in Johannesburg.

PHOTO: BAFANA MAHLANGU

Selibe said the most challenging part of the project was during the finals.

Fourteen artists sat at a long table with two facing each other at a time. The two would work on the same paper.

This was where the tricky part came in. Every time the referee blew his whistle during the final match, the artists would shift a place to the side and pick up from where their neighbour had left off.

"So every time you would have a new partner and a new sketch to work on. The whistle could blow at two-minute intervals or at 20 minute intervals," said Stach.

Plans are under way to do similar art works during the 2010 soccer World Cup.



View the pictures
www.sowetan.co.za



SPLASH OF COLOUR: A man skates his trolley past some of the *Art and Soccer* works on display at Arts on Main. PICTURE: ANTOINE DE RAS

Celebrating the beautiful game on canvas

Artists hope to do something even bigger for 2010

JABULILE NGWENYA AND KUTLWANO OLIFANT

IMAGINE two players playing soccer on an art canvas, bringing the beautiful game to life on your wall.

Visit Right on the Rim Project Saloon in the Arts on Main building to view seven colourful paintings depicting a marriage between art and soccer.

A melody of colour, violent splashes and artful designs leaps from the brick wall outside the Arts on Main building, on the corner of Fox and Berea streets in the city centre, where the paintings will be displayed permanently.

One stands out – a painting with the Orlando Pirates logo emblazoned on it and two players kicking a ball in a floodlit stadium.

This painting is part of the *Art and Soccer* project at Arts on Main.

Supported by the Austrian embassy in Pretoria, conceptualised by Austrian artist Walter Stach and coordinated by local artist Marcus Neustetter, 17 South African and Austrian artists took part in the project while watching Euro 2008 at Bassline in Newtown.

Tensions, grid lines, goal posts, soccer balls, player numbers and the fans'

Technicolor joy make the game move on canvas.

In an interview with The Star, Stach said: "The idea was to get artists to play against each other on paper while they watched the game on TV or listened to it on the radio.

"The artists had 90 minutes to play, starting when the game started, stopping at half-time when the whistle blew and culminating at the end. We painted our feelings of the game.

"It was fun, and we are looking at doing something bigger for 2010."

Local artist Steven Mabuena, who did the Orlando painting with Austrian artist Rhett Martyn, said: "I was inspired by the Euro 2008 Netherlands-Russia game to paint this painting."

Neustetter said: "We wanted to show two different styles on the same canvas in the same way two soccer teams play against each other, with the artists responding to their experiences of watching or listening to a game, and promoting soccer in the city."

Tomorrow new paintings celebrating the Confederations Cup – which ends on Sunday – will be put up in the Right on the Rim Project Saloon room for a week.

● For more information, contact Aloisia Wörgetter at the Austrian embassy at 012 452 9130.

The artists played against each other on paper