

It's official: Zidane is art

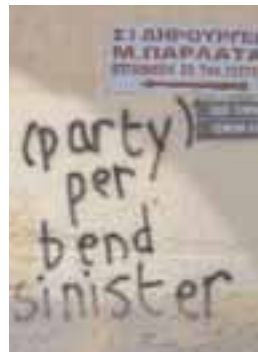


Douglas Gordon and Philippe Parreno's film "Zidane, a 21st-century portrait" which screens tonight (see p6) has been bought by MoMA and by the Guggenheim

Manifesta biennial team may sue former Cyprus hosts

BASEL. At a press conference held yesterday at Art Basel, the team selected to curate Manifesta 6, Europe's roving biennial—slated to launch in Cyprus this September—announced their attention to sue Nicosia for Art Limited (NfA), the group set up to organise the biennial. At the end of May, the Nicosia organisation cancelled the biennial and dismissed curators Mai Abu El Dahab, Anton Vidokle and Florian Waldvogel.

The three say that they proposed to create a temporary art school on both sides of the "Green Line" that separates the Greek and Turkish sections of Nicosia, a



Graffiti protest in Nicosia against the cancellation

plan that was accepted by the mayor of the southern (Greek) section, which bid €1m to land the project. But then it became clear, the curators say, that any effort to establish a branch of the school in the town's northern (Turkish) section would founder.

"The NfA has not fulfilled its contractual obligation to find the venues for the event in both North and South sides of the city," says Hedvig Fejn, the director of the Amsterdam-based biennial. "It sought to undermine the intention of Manifesta to happen in Nicosia." The curators were dismissed by mayor Michael Zampelas.

Despite the setback, the project has not been completely abandoned. "We are shocked that it should come to this stage," says Henry Meyric Hughes, the chairman of Manifesta. "But we are optimistic that the event will go ahead in some way." NfA will not be involved and Manifesta says it will sue the organisation in the Dutch courts.

Nonetheless, it will be difficult to find another location. Board member Massimiliano Gioni points out: "We are financially in a very fragile situation. Manifesta has never been able to go somewhere with money of its own."

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