

CENSORSHIP OF INTERNET ART

The affected art project

BARBIE AND KEN ARE HIV-positive

an art project in public space by Franz Wassermann
the same time in May 1996 held in Austria
and 1998 is to be realized in London

The Group Matell Inc. - producers of the Barbie doll - calls under threat of a lawsuit against my provider The Thing to take this art project with immediate effect by the World Wide Web.

According to information from other interested artists and providers in New York, relates to this form of censorship around the world countless others use websites of artists, the Barbie and Ken in their artistic work and thematisieren. Waren earlier in the first place, the leaders of church and state censorship, which they are now exercised by corporations in the economy and their financial power.

It raises for me the following questions as an interested artist:

How free is the art on the Internet?

Can Trade Marks (= Icons of the economy) and artistically edited to a critical reflection of society are exposed to?

Or they are taboo for the artist, because of the danger they are exposed to constant legal prosecution?

Foreign corporations can not and should censor art projects that depend on domestic providers in the WWW?

What laws apply for the Internet?

Is art allowed in art spaces and legally protected, but not in the public space?

What and how to protect the state of Austria's artists?

These and other issues need a public debate that is for you as an Internet phone user and promoter of media importance. I hereby appeal to you to participate.

Regarding the issue in place WIRED already held a discussion:

<http://www.wired.com/news/news/culture/story/8037.html>

For inquiries I am happy to help.

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Yours sincerely,

Franz Wassermann