

*When did you start the project?*

The first city to be subject to my repairs was the city of Bocchignano, during the project 20Eventi in 2007, organized by Alberto Tessore in collaboration with Karin Sander. Thereafter, with great help from my family and friends and the generous support of different Cultural Institutions, Art-galleries, DesignLabs, Toy-shops, Toy-producers I managed to visit the numerous countries and cities you find on this website.

*Why?*

I don't enjoy living in dull and gray cities. Do you? Have you noticed that toys for kids are generally very shiny and colorful? I wonder why that is, given that they are to be brought up to live in mostly dull and gray cities as adults.

I have been seeking to improve the appearance of public spaces in different ways - at least in terms of what I consider "improvement". The city of Bocchignano is a beautiful, little town which has, over the many years of its existence, grown in a very organic way. What I mean is that the ground walls were erected during the times of the Romans, with then contemporary material. As time went by and walls started to crumble, people helped themselves, of course, using material available, which at some point were clinker-bricks or aerated concrete etc. This patchwork of construction material was the starting point. It reminded me of the times, when as a kid I had to help bring my visions to life with the given material: When I wanted to build a structure and didn't have enough plastic bricks of matching colors I helped myself by using fitting bricks of other colors. The contemporary situation in architecture, the use of latest fashionable materials, led me to the assumption that nowadays it was legitimate to include one of the most contemporary materials: Plastic. When Dispatchwork was initiated, I was also looking for a manner of intervention which "authorities" couldn't object to - as in fact Dispatchwork isn't vandalism but actually repairing - and further to intervene in a way that they enjoyed as well. Generally, the contrasts couldn't be stronger between the dusty stones and the clean and colorful plastic bricks. Although they are not seen as a "real" construction material, they indeed could be. Did you ever face problems with local authorities?

Only twice, with security guards of a major contemporary art museum in Berlin and a Serbian Lady in Sremski Karlovci.

*Do you glue the patches in?*

No. But if you ask me kindly...

See, what I especially like, is the way the project generally reflects the efforts of street artists worldwide, who use their own resources to improve cityscapes knowing that many of these efforts are in vain. A poster, sticker, tag, piece, drawing, installation... put up on a wall or anywhere else in public space is, as soon as it is out there, fair game for any passerby and especially subject to removal by house owners and/or the cities henchmen. Generally spoken: If you see one of my patches and you like it, leave it where it is - if you don't enjoy it, or you have a better use for the bricks, then take it out, transform it, improve their use.

*Have you worked for or with plastic-toy-construction-brick-companies?*

I have never worked for any of these companies. A couple of times I have been given some kilos of Lego for my purposes. Thanks for that Henk! These mentioned kilos are now supposedly somewhere in private hands in Switzerland, Germany and Austria... I hope the bricks are being enjoyed.

*How can I be part of the project?*

When I started receiving mails from people all over the world who started Dispatchwork in their respective cities I decided that I wanted to share these photographs as well and launched a section called [Dispatchers Worldwide](#). All pictures sent to me are published there (as long as the patches are not placed in private places, like kitchens, living rooms...).

Also, you can register on <http://www.whenandwhere.org> to create events yourself and connect with others!

Play more!

Jan Vormann 2011