

# Interview with Jimmy Cauty

by Jürgen Ziemer

**It looks like irony, to build a large apocalyptic post-riot townscape at 1:87 scale in a container, that people can look at through little peepholes from outside. What is the Aftermath Dislocation Principle all about?**

The Aftermath is about whatever you want it to be about, I have set up a scenario where all the population of a small town have disappeared and only the police and media teams remain.

The narrative is left open for the viewer to invent, that's what makes the ADP interactive.

The ADP Riot Tour has spent the last 18 months touring historic riot sites in the UK and now Europe; and this is exactly what it is designed to do. The entire model is fitted into a 40ft shipping container and viewed through observation ports. It can go anywhere that a container lorry can go and even has its own generator for places where there is no electricity. As it has travelled it has also been heavily graffitied by people at each destination. We assert no control over this allowing it to develop and evolve as it goes. If anything offensive or too boring appears on it we trust that someone will quickly edit or remove it. Along with the open ended narrative of the model inside, the continually touring container is making up it's own story as it goes. We are now saying it is on the ADP World Riot Tour – from now until the end of time.

## **How do people react to the ADP?**

Initially people are either fearful, judgemental and/or curious. Local authorities tend to be the most fearful because of the promise of sedition in the title Riot Tour. It has also been banned from places because this worry or simply because of the graffiti on the outside which isn't by Banksy. However, this fear quickly turns to unbridled joy once people start interacting with the work, and entire communities turn out to see it, and (un)elected officials then champion it as a great work of art. We also find that children are great instigators of this. They have less fear than adults and know how to interact with something properly. They then transmit their enthusiasm to the grown-ups.

## **What exactly is a "historic riot site"?**

A historic riot site is a place where there has been a riot or civil disturbance of some kind, it's surprising how many sites there are around the world, actually most towns and villages have had some kind of riot in the past.

## **Have you been at the Schanzen-Viertel in Hamburg before?**

I was hoping to come to Hamburg but other commitments made 23 years ago have made it impossible for me to travel outside the UK this August.

Hamburg is the home of the Miniature Wunderland, a very expensive and very tidy model of an airport. My model village is a lot dirtier and dysfunctional compared to the Wunderland model village, a bit like the UK in comparison to Germany.

**The scenario in Hamburg four weeks ago was close to the Aftermath Dislocation Principle: A city full of police, more than 22.000 altogether. Did you follow the news about the riots at the G-20-Summit in Hamburg and what is your opinion?**

Yes I followed the news of the riots in Hamburg. The concept of the ADP is versatile and robust, it can be adapted to fit different ideas and world events, so yes it resembled the riots in Hamburg but it could also represent the aftermath of a terrorist attack, bio hazard event or whatever else is thrown up in the news in the future.

**"For each location on the tour we have published a pamphlet written by a local about the area's specific riot": Who wrote it this time, how did you find this person and what's the issue?**

This was more the case for the UK part of the tour last year. That was a very intensive affair where the container moved on to a new site nearly every week, and the publication of pamphlets and other tour propaganda was intrinsic to the energy of what we wanted to establish. There we would ask our hosts to invite someone local to write something about any historic insurgency in the area and we would format that and print it as a pamphlet for them. For the World Riot Tour we are being less prescriptive, so it has become just a suggestion to the hosts that they continue this tradition, to make the ADP locally relevant as they see fit. As with the graffiti on the outside of the container we have relinquished control of this aspect and do not monitor it.

**Have you been involved in riots yourself so far, maybe when you were younger?**

I have never been in a riot myself, I prefer to watch other people rioting on TV, it's entertaining and exciting to watch, the best bits are when the rioters are knocked over by the water cannon. If I see groups of police standing around I want to pick them up and reposition them, that is a hangover from working on the model for the last 5 years.

**Do you miss radical political attitudes in today's pop culture?**

Fast forward a thousand years and look back on the late 20th century: I think you would see a spike in pop culture rise up after 1949 peaking in about 1969 then fading back to zero by the year 2000. We are living in post pop culture times now, everything is in flux again, all pop songs have been written now, all model villages trashed, all ideas are back on the table, the drawing board is a blank canvas.

It will be interesting to see what the next generation will come up with to replace it all. The down side of that is it's also wide open for the corporate takeover of counter culture, this is already happening in London, you walk into a gallery/bar/cafe to see the latest underground art and find it's all been sponsored by a bank or property developer.

Because it is too expensive for artists to live in capital cities now, the job of the artist to create an experimental world has been co-opted by the developers.

**Are riots a subversive form pop-culture?**

Yes, but they are also a form of control. The authorities put much more effort into establishing and training riot police forces than rioters put into rioting. The media also view it as cheap entertainment. We live in a world where all subversion is immediately exploited and recouped back into mainstream culture. The ADP is the art world equivalent of this. For the UK tour we received some money from the Arts Council to fund it, so we could genuinely say the tour was For the People By the People, Funded by the State For the State.

**Do you like Josh Kline's Anti-Riot Police Teletubbies?**

I like Josh Kline's riot police Teletubbies but I wish he had made them shorter and fatter like the real Teletubbies.

**Finally, I'd like to propose an ADP World Riot Tour (Hamburg) competition:  
Jimmy Cauty challenges Miniature Wunderland to a Battle of the Model Villages**

I say my Model Village is better than Miniature Wunderland!  
Let's have a public vote....the winner takes all?