

## Matt Magazine #3



**Gürsoy Dogtas**  
**Prominence given, Authority taken**  
[www.mattmagazine.com](http://www.mattmagazine.com)

1. Release: 08.03.08 ab 19h  
Exhibition till 29.03.08  
Lothringer13/laden\_ps Lothringerstr. 13/81667 München  
<http://laden.lothringer13.de>

2. Ludlow 38/ 09.02.08-23.03.08  
38 Ludlow St. (between Grand and Hester Sts.)  
New York, NY 10002

A project by Gürsoy Dogtas

Matt Magazine is a synthesis between fanzine and current affairs magazine. Text and pictures complement each other, tackling complex and political subjects relevant to our times. All the texts in Matt are from previously-published classic documents from the history of science and humanities. Xeroxed copies of extracts with occasional sections highlighted or circled in a purely subjective way are juxtaposed with images from a different source. Matt Magazine is in the tradition of critical concept art and is oriented towards the aesthetic of appropriation Art.

The topic of the third edition of Matt Magazine is the contradictory relationship between prominence and authority. During a discussion between Douglas Crimp and Louise Lawler, Lawler cites as a guiding principle "Prominence given, Authority taken". While Lawler is using the phrase "Prominence given, Authority taken" to explain the relationship between her pictures one can also illustrate the concept on a socio-political level. Exploring this contradictory relationship, Matt Magazine #3 reveals in four chapters the stalemate reached between prominence and authority.

What are hierarchies?

The first chapter takes an extract from an interview held by Fons Elders with Noam Chomsky and Michel Foucault and combines it with photos by Gürsoy Dogtas. The Interview, entitled "Human Nature: Justice versus Power", explores issues of power and justice, while the photos cover an official exhibition of the Queen of Thailand's jewellery collection in the ethnological museum of Munich. On the one side, a heated discussion about human nature, the power of the state and capitalism – and on the other side a photographer portrays the shameless flaunting of golden opulence.

New and old exoticism

Walid Raad's "Bachar Tapes" present a series of security video tapes which politically motivated "hijackers" have been sending to the press, as a way of voicing their concerns and raising the profile of their cause. The screen grabs of the "Bachar Tapes" are combined in the second chapter with passages from score of Mozart's The Abduction from the Seraglio. This unexpected combination does not just ask what forms of prejudices have survived into the 21st century, but also how different types of media have been used to create more intense and populist images. It is the contrast between the hooded kidnapers and the compromised hostage, which illustrates the relation between power and being powerless.

The actor and his role

In the third chapter presents a text by Constantin Stanislavski – perhaps the most important methodologist of 20th century theatre – combined with stills of Hollywood movies. The exploration of theatre as pure art-form meets the commercial end of the entertainment industry. The actor and his subtle psychology of live performance are set aside the film star's stunt man leaping away from ever-present and increasingly similar explosions, thereby suggesting that actors in the commercial field can no longer rely on three-dimensional character work to move up the ladder of success.

Political fiction

Margaretha Geertruida Zelle (alias Mata Hari) attained her legendary state on the one hand through her sensational erotic Indian temple dances and on the other through her activity as a spy on different fronts. Her diary entries are combined with the photos of Guersoy Dogtas, which show suspected drug enforcement agents (dealers coerced by the police into working for them to capture other drug dealers) operating at principal railway stations. Mata Hari awakens longings through her glamorous double identity, distracting us from the fact that she was sentenced to death. The "double" dealers meanwhile tread a dangerous line between betraying their fellows (and risking exposure) or being sentenced to a prison term if they refuse to cooperate.

### **Exhibitions:**

Matt Magazine #1  
Freizeit und Konsum  
Galerie Hafen und Rand  
Friedrichstraße 28  
20359 Hamburg  
[www.hafenrand.com](http://www.hafenrand.com)

Matt Magazine #2  
Mobility & Surveillance  
Les Complices  
Anwandstraße 9  
CH-8004 Zürich  
[www.lescomplices.ch](http://www.lescomplices.ch)

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81667 München  
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Ludlow 38  
1014 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10028, USA

Matt Magazine #4  
Protest, Spektakel & Sesantion  
Basso/Berlin  
Ende Juni  
[www.basso-berlin.de](http://www.basso-berlin.de)

### **Also present here in 2008:**

Published and be Damned/London  
[www.publishandbedamned.org](http://www.publishandbedamned.org)

Salon Light#5/Paris  
<http://www.cneai.com>

The NY Art Book Fair  
<http://printedmatter.org>

Matt Magazine is friend with Starship  
<http://starship-magazine.org>