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## Frank Fu and the Bullshit and Boring Art World Follow puehu

Rangituhia Hollis 2008

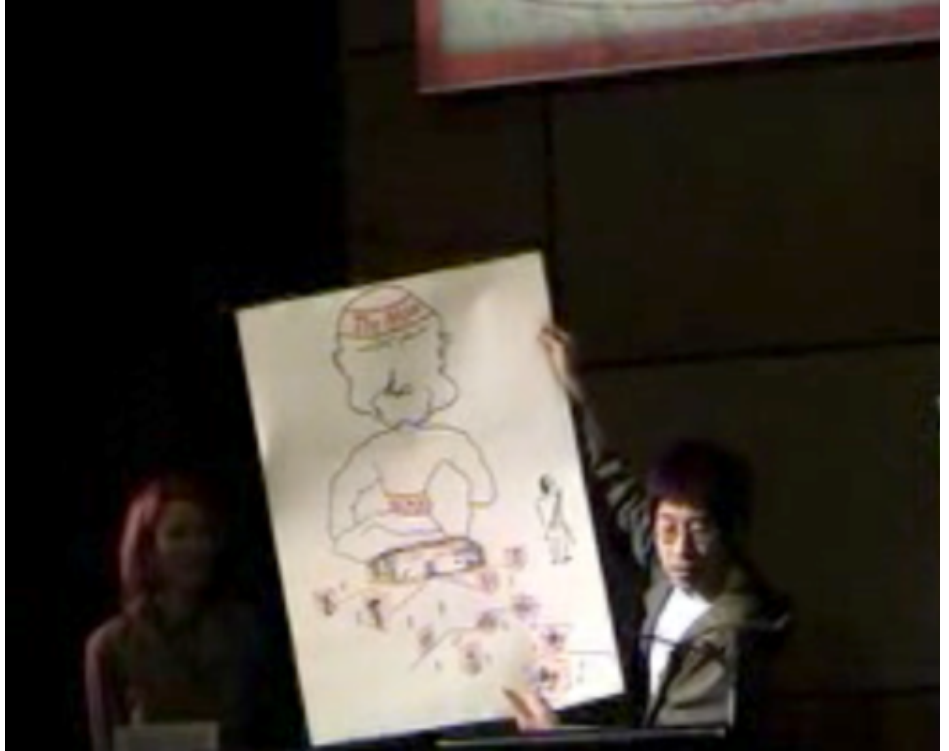


“Welcome to the bullshit and boring art world.” (Fu).

In an intervention to the opening speeches of “Don’t misbehave” - the 2006 Christchurch Biennial - Frank Fu interceded the perfunctory rituals of the night as a means to elucidate the Biennials part in a “commodified revolution” (Fu). Pushing his way to the front of the stage, past other speakers Fu delivered a speech that no-one apart himself and his Videographer had prepared for. Frank Fu introduced a construct that he calls the “capitalist game” to outline the hierarchies of the hegemonic system that produces such an event (Fu). Those attending were also thanked for their complicity in supporting the system. Anyone who has ever attended an opening night and stood through the speeches will most likely appreciate the conventional protocols of naming all the relevant players; which typically flows from the top down, for example corporate sponsors, to patrons, curators and so on down the line to installation staff and visitors. So in that regard Fu respected some conventions, his welcome not so different to the prescribed line:

“This is called the capitalist game, which is we have ‘the Man’, which is Art and Industries Biennial Trust and then we have the curator who works for the Man. And then we have the Artist who produces things ready to be selected. Once they have been selected by an extension of the process they have be selected as well, thus they becoming special or lucky. The Curator really becomes the pimp. After selected they choose Artist and they put Artist

inside or outside the invisible cage. And then also ask them what their going to do, incase the Artist is going to do something stupid or unexpected... Curator traps the Artist, the Misbehavior and the revolution really becomes the commodified revolution. So after finished Artists bring their commodified revolution to the dealer galleries and then together save the resistance. What a pathetic, its just bullshit...Thank you for sponsoring the bullshit and boring art events” (Fu).



While Fu offers no solutions to improve the flow of power relations, Fu identifies what he thinks that the audience that needs to hear. Asking them to both question their place in a system and their own desires to be accepted and advance in the capitalist game. He doesn't antagonize the crowd beyond any reasonable expectations getting them to question the implications of their desires is enough. His talk is brief and met with raucous applause. He has trapped the audience, the curators and the 'Man' inside a schema that overlays the Biennial as if it were a contracting subset of rampant capitalistic excess. Does he need to offer anything beyond that? Pointing out the Emperor is naked is a good enough start.

view the intervention here: ([link](#))

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