

POLITICS / 9/11 / States of emergency

- In Trauma at Home: After 9/11 (Faludi)
The difficulty in putting up with, voicing and explaining 9/11 within our society. Susan Faludi often recurs to the image of choking women, covered with dust, who cannot swallow, and therefore throw up, what is stuck in their throats. A post-feminist view on a thoroughly examined issue, one that speaks not to the individual but to the whole community in which we live as new subjects.
- Sex, Torture & Politics (Butler)
How the representation of sex, physical torture and its relation with politics has changed in the Naughties. A very subtle and complex topic.
- The power of illusion (Zizek)
An essay published ten days after Obama's election. A paean against political and post-colonial cynicism, an invitation to greet, though with a critical eye, Obama's election as a new source of hope, to believe in a better future. Despite his reasoning, Zizek's approach is down to earth, particularly as far as the future dominant ideology and the explanation of the present economical crisis are concerned. Zizek draws parallels with many historical events.
- An Interview with Barack Obama (Bates)
Rolling Stone's official supporting interview with the candidate to presidential elections, published in October 2008. The portrait of a humble innovator with a most difficult task. An enjoyable reading, full of Obama's witticisms.
- Camps (Rahola)
The topic is the new migrants. A detailed description of certain camp-forms, spaces organized by the sovereign power, which can be very dynamic according to the historical and geopolitical context, but are essentially containers, collecting, confining and trapping "exceeding" subjects, and depriving them of their rights.

NEW GLOBAL DISASTERS

- Swine Flu (Davis)
An article published in April 2009. The swine flu as seen by an American professor of History and Marxist intellectual. A result of the industrialization of agricultural and breeding sectors. Responsibilities of several institutions, governments and corporations involved in the explosion of the pandemic flu are thoroughly inspected.

- Kathrina (Davis)
An article published in 2005, after the New Orleans disaster. A critical inquiry into the most serious responsibilities and the political background of the premeditated inaction of Bush' administration.
- Tsunami Report (Mordiglia)
The report by a young Italian journalist on vacation on the coast devastated by the tsunami wave in December 2004.

(almost) DEAD

- Wallace (D.T. Max)
A maximalist tribute to a maximalist writer. A trip into D.F.Wallace's obsession with writing, his depression and suicide, through his correspondence with several authors and the sketches of his most representative characters.
- M. Jackson and the celebrity culture (Piccinini)
We are all Michael Jackson, but it's actually just a dream, sheer rhetoric. Jackson is dead, and keeping on believing he is still leading us through a fairytale world is just an illusion. Jackson has lost his struggle. At least on this earth.
- Steve Jobs (Guerzoni)
These years of an abstract, symbolic, fartlike volatile economy, the fortunes of the biggest IT company in the world hang by a thread made of human flesh: the very bowels of Steve Jobs, a human being.

MEDIA

- Social Networks / New stories (Bittanti)
One life is not enough. Or, how new social networking on the web is giving us addiction to multi-telling, both active and passive.
- Pop Music (Reynolds)
What's new in the feeble world of pop music in the Naughties? Well, nothing, says Reynolds. Were it not for another real pop star, an electronic device, the iPod, changing our way of listening to music and what it means. Confronting this compulsive and apathetic obsession with downloading and never ending music, will we ever be able to recover our original and most intimate approach to music, one that is truly physical, slowed down and limited?
- Contemporary Art (Lissoni)
A transition to staging and the claim of taste as a strategy. The explosion of access, most of all in the opening to other more eccentric places (the two Documentas). That's what happened, the élites have accepted that, but what

are the results on artists and their practices and, more generally, on the media? The big issue of access affects the re-discovery and re-enactment of many seminal artists. That is the key through a meaningful reading of contemporary art.

- Future in medial narration (Freccero)
Contemporary liquidity has generated an industrial super-genre. Nowadays cinema is sheer action. And an uncalled for, meaningless, purposeless action it is. Action taking place in an eternal present, with no project ahead. The project is just an excuse, as in porn movies the plot is just an excuse to show explicit sex scenes.

CUSTOMS AND SOCIETY

- Apple Design (S. Garratt)
An interview with the British designer Jonathan Ive, the “irrational and reckless” creator of the most important design- object of the decade.
- The youth do not exist (Benzoni)
A speaking title. Just think of today’s Italy
- BUTT intro (Labruce)
Bruce LaBruce explains how homo culture has pervaded the decade, particularly in style, introducing us to BUTT, a painstakingly designed magazine, the most authentic symbol of post-AIDS gay culture.
- A future map of global football (Kuper)
Football gurus emigrating to the far peripheral regions where the words “soccer” or “football” do not even exist. Most surprisingly, these outskirts have acquired know-how and experience, and are now outclassing the “centre”. Professional football is more and more a question of money.

BRIC

- Brazil (Arto Lindsay)
Brazil is finally keeping its distance from its own negative image, trying to assert itself in a new, realistic way. Through its rising home economy, the football star system, the new street music scenery, and the political investments on the explosive culture, slowly getting rid of clichés. Contemporary is here.
- India
The terrorist attacks in Mumbai, a traditionally hedonistic, trade-oriented city, should be met with a greatest share of trust, encouraging money-making and tourism.

- China (Brian Holmes)

As the Olympics commercials said: one world, one dream. Beijing has claimed its role as one of the most influential global cities of the world. It has asserted itself as a world-city: a single urban block devouring the countryside, expanding through new highway routes, airports, facilities, cement castings eating up mountains and climbing up to the sky.

ECONOMY

- No credit (Klein)

An article published in November 2008. A report by the author of “No Logo”, investigating into the clash of interests, in the bailout operations for financial institutes, involving Bush’ administration, the law firms and their equivocal relations to bank corporations.

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