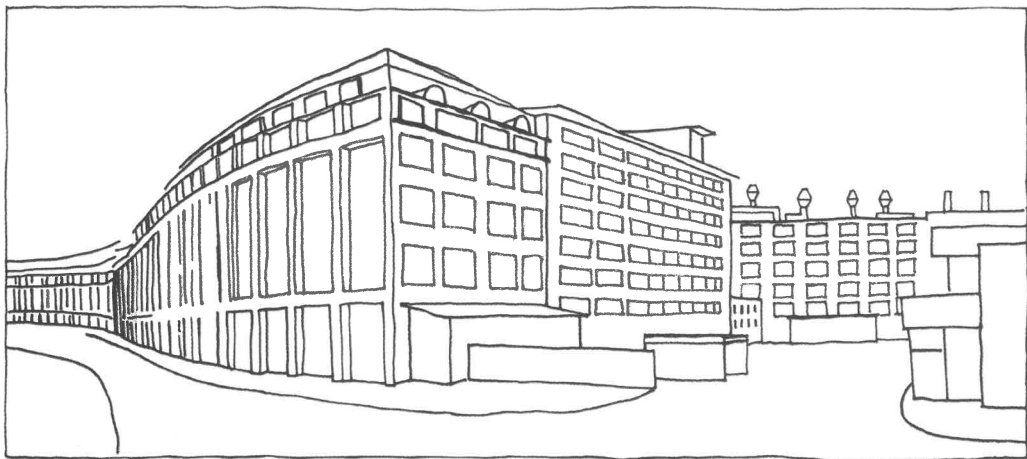


I am a company artist at ContiTech.

ContiTech is part of the Continental AG Group, which specializes in the production of tyres. ContiTech also produces other articles that are made of rubber such as V-belts, multiple V-ribbed belts and rubber timing belts for example.



I applied for the position of company artist at ContiTech as if this profession existed. My offer was to carry out all services that the staff of ContiTech thought appropriate for a company artist.

My first job is to do an oil painting of the ContiTech trade fair stand at the Hanover Tradeshow. An employee responsible for hiring engineers praises me for the courage to allow myself the luxury of a profession like mine. The neighbour from Fundiciones Aizpurua speculates that ContiTech must be a very big, rich company if they could afford to have themselves drawn! The Spanish produce wheels. They polish their bronze wheels and display them as if they were pieces of jewellery. When they don't have anything else to do they walk around their stand and admire the shine. Or invite me over for some wine and ham.

Drawing trade fair stands makes a good impression, I think. Companies try to poach me. Most think I am a specialized trade fair stand painter who has found a market gap and they encourage me to go into the business big style. When the Minister President of Lower Saxony drops in, the unfinished picture is put on its easel in the corner of the little separée he has been invited to.

I am asked if I mind drawing a trade fair stand. One person says they feel sorry for the picture, which even though nice has to represent a trade fair stand.

The Commons Service Group declares **ART** a



The GATS (General Agreement on Trade in Services) is an agreement of the 146 member countries of the WTO. The GATS imposes increasing commercial regulations on the circulation of knowledge, immaterial goods and services. Art is encapsulated within the category "Recreational, cultural and sporting services". In 1995, many countries put their trust in a "cultural exemption", but in 2005 culture is due to be renegotiated. **Art and culture are part of the commons and can't be subsumed into the WTO's agenda.**



In response to the WTO's empire, we recommend **ART.**

This insert is one of a series created in collaboration with artists for dissemination in free contemporary art publications, in-print and on-line.

Participating artists: Lara Almárcegui (Netherlands), Etienne Cliquet (France), Maura Doyle (Canada), Claude Lévêque (France), Chris Lloyd (Canada), Public Works (UK), Antje Schiffers (Germany), YOUNG-HAE CHANG HEAVY INDUSTRIES (Korea)

Participating publications: L'Art Même (Belgium), Fucking Good Art <http://www.fuckinggoodart.nl> (Netherlands), Hors d'Oeuvre (France), <http://multitudes.samizdat.net> (France), Nero <http://www.neromagazine.it> (Italy), <http://www.republicart.net> (EU), <http://samplesize.ca> (Canada), Variant <http://www.variant.org.uk> (UK)

Cet insert est partie prenante d'un projet collaboratif entre le Commons Service Group, des artistes et des publications gratuites d'art contemporain. Le Commons Service Group déclare l'art ZONE HORS AGCS.

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As a curatorial collective, the Commons Service Group is committed to building the commons through serving art, artists, and audiences. (France 2005)

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