

Interview by Giulia Buono
March 2007

UBERMORGEN.COM (Lizvix/Hans Bernhard):

We find it justifiable to damage or destruct existing art works and property as a statement - improving the artwork or making a performance to maximize fame and value in the art market. Every year, hundreds of thousands of art objects and cultural goods are being destroyed by governments, by nature and by corporations. Damaging or destructing artworks as an art form is just a drop in the ocean. An interesting anecdote is from Tracy Emin's *Bed*. Yuan Cai and Jian Jun Xi lanjun stripped off their shirts and proceeded to jump around and have a pillow fight on Tracy Emin's winning entry for the 1999 Turner prize *My Bed*. In contrast to this action, "The Last Thing I Said Is Don't Leave Me Here" and "The Hut" by Tracey Emin (1999) were destroyed in the Momart warehouse fire in Leyton, East London, on May 24, 2004.

To judge the individual actions by artists is viable, but it is solely up to the individual and should not obey to any general rules, laws or social or even corporate standards. For ourselves we wish that our work becomes so attractive that artists from other fields are drawn to it and start to destroy or enhance the pieces (One good thing is that our work belongs to Museums or Collectors, so we are not directly affected by it, at least financially). In terms of sampling and use of copyrighted material (one of our domain is the digital one) we are welcoming any kind of intervention, be it very aggressive, unpolite, destructive or whatsoever. Our work is here to be used – although we love the aesthetics of very fine prints on canvas or photos – but a certain percentage could as well be (mis)used by other artists. Maybe we should demand for a percentage of works by every artists to be put into the public domain for manipulation, to maltreat and to destruct; but probably that would make the objects less desirable... and we are aware that we are talking about very unique pieces of art (i.e. Duchamps urinal, Malevich paintings, etc.).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_artworks