

Mauricio Guillen*Security Measures*

Tailored Tweed Uniforms for the Barbican invigilators and DVD in collaboration with Fake London
2004

Mauricio Guillen's proposed project for his contribution to Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2004 in The Curve at the Barbican Art Gallery includes specially designed tailor-made uniforms for a number of the gallery invigilators alongside a DVD of the measuring and tailoring process that took place in the Barbican Art Gallery between the invigilators, the artist and fashion designers.

This proposed work focuses on the economic and power relations of today's globalised world by seeking to empower the gallery invigilators by bringing attention to their presence in the gallery through specially designed uniforms as opposed to constantly attempting to negate their being there. The invigilators were asked to continue with their usual routine of monitoring the gallery, only drawing attention to themselves through their Harris-Tweed uniforms. No monetary exchanges or additional work was required from the invigilators in order to bring this project to life.

This piece clearly pushes the boundaries of conventional art production and also seeks to address how pertinent questions from sociology, economics and politics are taken up in contemporary art practices.

However, despite the lengthy negotiation process that took place between the artist and gallery invigilators regarding their eventual participation in this challenging project, the final outcome has been to withdraw the work due to irreconcilable differences between both parties.

This project sets out to test and push the relationship between artist, institution and personnel. In this case, although all parties were enthusiastic from the outset and were actively engaged in the negotiation process, the end product has been to remove the work from display and the invigilators have reverted to wearing their usual uniform.