

ALEX WISSEL

**Rheingold**

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Achenbach is sitting bent forward on a chair. It's nighttime, it's Düsseldorf, and he is turning dollar signs into euro signs. He makes a ton of money doing so. These invoices are art collages, the art consultant later says. He had defrauded them of millions, the Aldi guys and other good friends from those days said. At the time he often had to smile about his deviousness himself.

Campo Bahia, the training camp of the German national team in Rio 2014. The German football coach alternately talks with a Brazilian chieftain and Ulli Lommel, who is wearing a pink cowboy hat made of snakeskin. The Campo was like a rite of passage, it's about sliding over into "another world". Achenbach sold the full package concept to Jogi and manager Bierhoff: The camp needed power, innovative spirit. It needed art. In all rooms, everywhere. Later, Andreas Gursky designed the team bar with Claus Föttinger. Lampshades bearing Jogi's face. A win-win situation. Catch your dream. The door to the training grounds: a 2x2 meter large dreamcatcher. Art can help, art has to help. „Mach ihn! Er macht ihn!!! Da ist er gekommen dieser eine Moment. Ein Traum für 80 Millionen Deutsche kann in 7 Minuten wahr sein.“

For the art consultant and storyteller Achenbach it was his biggest triumph. And his last. Shortly after the Lufthansa's winners' plane touched down on German soil, he was handcuffed. He made Immendorff big, he made them all big. Monkeys Island, cocaine, currywurst. Er kannte kein Weekend. He only knew ascent. Achenbach started out as a social worker, Immendorff as a secondary school teacher, Schröder as an industrial clerk. To do what has to be done.

But aren't we all a bit Achenbach? Flexibility, seduction, egocentrism. The big stories are dead, it's time for small talk. The new spirit of the capital: the cashflow-honeypump. Beuys indeed wanted everything to be soft, different states of aggregation, liquified money flows through the Deutschlandgebäude, Deutschland-AG, Ich-AG. The totally expanded notion of art: Life-Work-Balance, Casual Friday, New Labor. Finally new ways of life again! And friendship between men. The radical professor only prepared what Achenbach then completed. Catch your dream. The primal type of the creative artist, he was born in the hole that time tore in between the two of them. The young people don't even want contracts anymore. It's all totally free these days. Beuys. Beuys. Boys.

- Timo Feldhaus

Alex Wissel (born 1983, in Aschaffenburg) lives and works in Düsseldorf. His works have been shown in the following institutions and galleries: Haus der Kunst, München; Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach; Mumok, Wien; Sammlung Philara, Düsseldorf; Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf; NAK. Neuer Aachener Kunstverein, Aachen; New Theater, Berlin; Harburger Kunstverein, Hamburg; Temporary Gallery, Köln; center, Berlin; et. al.