

# DINGWELT [THINGWORLD]

**NET ART PROJECT WITH AN EXCHANGE MARKET FOR THINGS WITH HISTORY**  
installation: web documentation, 12 digital art printings, 2003-2004

---

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

DINGWELT (i.e. THING WORLD) is a net art project with an exchange action in form of an exchange market in the internet ([www.dingwelt.de](http://www.dingwelt.de)). Exchange a thing with a story for a printed artwork with represented thing - this idea is behind the DINGWELT project. During the exchange process of one year (2003/15/09 - 2004/15/09) we have been collecting personal used things with history and giving art printings with certificate to each participant.

The project deals with issues within the discourse of the valuation of art and things, relationships to used things, the disappearance of things and the trusting and entrusting environment of the world wide web. It creates an environment which is theoretically challenging and can be perceived also with fun.

The DINGWELT project is now a net art installation in both hyper and physical space. The work is online permanent available as documentation of the exchange process ([www.dingwelt.de](http://www.dingwelt.de)) and also in the form of a room installation. There the whole catalogue of the printings which have been offered for exchange (12 collages/ 12 stories) is presented on platforms in the shape of the DINGWELT-logo. This presentation shows digital items as real looking objects in top view and stresses the experience of both spaces.

## **THE EXCHANGE PROCESS**

The DINGWELT on-line picture catalogue offered for exchange 12 representations of used things with a short story as certificate. They display pictures of the things as independent photo art products. Clients could select these picture articles and offer own used things for them in exchange by (package) mail. In principle any offered item was accepted, only a short, hand written history had to be sent in with the thing. In return, the participant received the picture from the catalogue as signed, laminated digital printing with its certificate.

The exchanged things were listed and published online in the DINGWELT portal with their picture and story. Thus, the 12 art printings became articles of value and symbolic representations of the "thing world". The exchange story with the exact data (edition number/ date/ signature) at the back of the laminated printings has formed the certificate.

## **12 DIGITAL ART PRINTINGS**

The pictures of things are representations, produced as digital, coloured, associative collages:

LINK BRACELET \* not valuated / SINCLAIR ZX 81\* self tuned / SOFT TOY MÜMMY \* unwashed / TABLE SET \* antique / THAI-MINIBAG \* eye catcher / MONEY BOX MOUSE \* guardian of the small money / PLANT RAKE \* mini gardener / DESIGNER GLASSES \* courageous red / WORK DRESS \* contship asia / BOTTLE OPENER \* tin fish / BATHING CAP \* beco sport / OVEN CLOTHS \* self crocheted

## **WEB DOCUMENTATION**

The DINGWELT exchange market deals with goods relations and value determinations of used things. It argues with the influence of new media on the consumer culture and offers a reflection: in a culture of the "NEW" with used things and in a culture of disappearing material in cyberspace with real material.

The idea of the action is simple: Exchange a thing with a story for a printed art work with a represented thing. DINGWELT collects small and big things with a hand written story of their owners and stages them. But where do the borders of the virtual exchange activity and the determined value for things lie when the material disappears? How do things obtain their value, perhaps by the exchange process itself? Do we increase the value and the relationship of the thing with its story in digital space as currency for art? And are there values which are universal common by the contributions to the DINGWELT exchange market?

The collection was growing during the process. In the documentation the individual present relations and the processes of imagination survive. A conscious participation and the narrative production of meaning is provoked. The social, symbolic and aesthetic concepts of things with their form of poetic writing become the focus of intention, while the function and the material construction of things form the background.

## **PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

The development of the project DINGWELT exchange market started on 15th of September 2002. We started creating the website in April 2003 and set up the project on 15th of September 2003. The "collection"-area was integrated as a dynamic catalogue portal for the time of the exchange process and was developed by the sponsoring company [TEAM GmbH, Paderborn, Germany] on an oracle basis. The exchange action was realised until 15th of September 2004 and after that the site became a permanent project documentation.

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VIEWING**

The Website uses a dynamic HTML version (German) and a normal HTML version (English/ German). It is tested with Microsoft Internet Explorer Version 5.0 or higher. The best view for Netscape-Browsers from Version 5.0 is the HTML-Version. JavaScript should be activated in each case. The screen should have at least 1024 x 768 pixels for a clearly arranged view.

## **SPONSORING / SUPPORT**

The project was supported by the German fund "Fonds Soziokultur e.V.", Bonn. The "collection"-area was integrated by TEAM, a partner for technology and applied methods of data processing GmbH, Paderborn, Germany. The high resolution laser colour prints for the exchange action were sponsored by UNITY AG, corporation for management and information technology, Bueren, Germany.

## **LANGUAGE**

The net art project is bilingual: The web documentation is published in German and English. The 12 stories of the art printings are also available in both languages.