

apexart

MEN WITH BALLS: THE ART OF THE 2010 WORLD CUP

Curated by Simon Critchley

Works are listed clockwise from right.

Fiorucci Made Me Hardcore, 1999

Mark Leckey (UK)

15 min, Video

Fiorucci Made Me Hardcore is Leckey's edit of found footage from the British casual culturescene in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. Fiorucci was an Italian fashion house renowned for successfully marketing the counter-culture aesthetic to high-end consumers, introducing jeans and t-shirts to a European market in the 1970s. The video traces the evolution of rites of passage in British society through the last decades of the 20th century, blending football culture with dance parties and drug subcultures.

The Forgotten Tapes, 2008

Bill Shankly and John Roberts (UK)

MP3 file of taped interviews

Bill Shankly (1913 -81) is one of the most legendary managers in British football and Simon Critchley's boyhood hero. In his 15-year tenure as manager of Liverpool Football Club, he made it one of the most important and successful teams in the English game. John Roberts, a long-time sports journalist, interviewed Shankly in the late 1970s in order to ghost write Shankly's autobiography. 30 years later the interviews themselves were published, allowing football fans to hear the story of football in post-war England directly from one of its most influential protagonists.

The World Cup Sounds Like This, (1966-1990)

Assorted albums covers compiled by **Roger Bennett**

Digital scan on foam board, and MP3 compilation

Music began to be produced to accompany and commodify football in the 1966 World Cup in England and has continued ever since. This selection of beautifully gaudy record covers and a compiled soundtrack, mainly from the 1970s and 80s, give a poignant sense of the eternal hope and optimism that defines football and which is usually always followed by disappointment.

The music compilation includes:

1. We've Got the Whole World at Our Feet When We Are Far From Home, England, 1986
2. This Time (We'll Get it Right), England, 1982
3. El Mundial, Ennio Morricone, Official Song of the 1978 World Cup
4. Juanito Mexico, Mexico, 1970
5. Du Allein, Franz Beckenbauer
6. Viva Ireland, Gene Fitzpatrick, Ireland, 1982
7. Oei Oei Oei, Johan Cruyff
8. Na Na Na Portugal, Mexico, 1986
9. Come on Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland, 1986
10. Domenico Alle Tre, Paolo Rossi
11. Ole Ola, Rod Stewart, Scotland, 1978
12. Big Trip to Mexico, Scotland, 1986
13. We Have a Dream, Scotland, 1982
14. Say It With Pride, Scotland, 1990
15. Back Home, England, 1970
16. Aztec Gold, Silsoe, The Official ITV Theme for World Cup 1986

Two short texts (for DG), 2010

Liam Gillick (UK)

White gloss spray paint on white wall

Commissioned for Men With Balls, this work consists of two sentences. The first, 'Forget about the ball and get on with the game', is something that Liam Gillick's Dad used to say to him. The second, 'You'll never make the station', is derived from Millwall Football Club in East London, who had a loyal fan base in London's notorious Docklands. These fans were noted for their violence and 'you'll never make the station' was a threat issued to the visiting fans that they would be beaten up before they got to the local underground station. Nice guys.

México vs. Brasil, 2004

Miguel Calderón (MX)

90 min, video on DVD

Mexico perpetually loses to the world-famous Brazilian team, but in this carefully crafted match, the team was finally able to win, Mexico 17 - Brazil 0. Calderon edited footage of football matches between the national teams of Brazil and Mexico to form the length of one regular game. The work was originally shown as part of the Sao Paulo Biennial in 2004 at a bar on a regular TV monitor, with no mediation to suggest it was not a real game.

Zidane: a 21st Century Portrait, 2006

Douglas Gordon (UK) and **Phillipe Parreno** (FR)

90 min, HD and 35mm film

Artists Douglas Gordon and artist Phillippe Parreno used 17 HD and 35mm cameras to focus exclusively on the wildly popular French-Algerian football player Zinedine Zidane during a match between Real Madrid and Villarreal on the 23rd of April 2005. The soundtrack is a commissioned score by Scottish band Mogwai.

Football as Never Before, 1970

Hellmuth Costard (DE)

105 min, 16mm on video

In this video, Hellmuth Costard follows Manchester United's star football player, George Best, with his camera for the entire length of their league match against Coventry. Costard used eight 16mm camera to record Best's every move, creating a vivid portrait not only of an individual, but of the choreography of the game.

Universal Square, 1996

Uri Tzaig (IL)

30 min, video on DVD

Tzaig's video documents a game of football organized by the artist between a team of Jewish Israelis and a team of Arab Israelis in Lod – a mid-sized peripheral city in Israel from which Palestinians were deported in 1948, but which now has a mixed Israeli-Palestinian population. All standard rules of play applied, except one very crucial detail: Tzaig added another ball to the game. This meant that spectators and players alike had to maintain focus on two balls at once, shifting the usual unified perspective of organized play. The text reflects Tzaig's preoccupation with perception, or what the gaze masters in large crowded public spaces.

Sometimes, I go to the train stations and stand near the exit, like those who come to wait for travelers; and I deliver myself to the movements of the crowd that presses towards me, soaked to the skin by the flood of raindrops. The people look me in the eyes as if I were waiting for them, they cannot imagine that I would come here in order to garner for myself their piercing glances.

After that, I leave.

On the big square, as the gaze refuses to seize the connections between events, as an old man sits on a bench and feeds the pigeons, and two young girls advance upon the terrain, and another man returns to the stores where he has forgotten his bag, and a small child urinates, and a couple of cyclists pass, one showing his back to the other after having seen him from the corner of his eye, and this other speaking under his breathe from the fear of being heard, and this one who approaches so near to me that I blush; for example in my walks in the public garden, when I look someone deeply in the eyes (and I take something that belongs to him) so as afterwards to observe someone else.

--excerpt from Universal Square text, translated by NL

Pat Bonner, Republic of Ireland goalkeeper, 1994

Roderick Buchanan (UK) and **Ross Sinclair** (UK)

Digital print from 35mm slide

Pat Bonner, the Celtic and Republic of Ireland Goalkeeper, is seen wearing a training bib announcing the time and place where this sporting giant would be watched by the whole world live from Giants Stadium in New York during the 1994 World Cup. Bonner was one of only a handful of stars from the World Cup in Italy in 1990 to feature in USA 94. He sealed his reputation as a world class stopper when he saved a penalty from Daniel Timofte during the penalty shoot out against Romania in quarter-finals of the World Cup in Italy in 1990.

Mark E. Smith reads match results (2006)

7:18 min, Originally aired on the BBC

Mark Edward Smith, singer, lyricist, and musician, was born in 1958 in Manchester UK to a working class family. In 1976, after having dropped out of school to work on the Manchester docks, Smith founded the Fall – a now legendary English post-punk band. Smith is the only constant member of the group that, by some estimates, numbers 45 members at various stages. He is also known for his fashionably caustic personality and his drinking habits.

Jean-Martin Charcot (1825 –1893)

Anonymous photograph

Jean-Martin was a French neurologist, the founder by many accounts of modern day neurology and, through his influence on the young Freud, psychoanalysis. Charcot was the first to describe and to name multiple sclerosis, elaborated the symptoms of Parkinson's disease significantly, and is charged with identifying Tourette's syndrome. Charcot was also the first to describe a disorder now known as Charcot foot or Charcot arthropathy. Charcot foot develops as a result of neuropathy, which decreases sensation and the ability to feel temperature, pain, or trauma. Because of diminished sensation, the patient may continue to walk—making the injury worse, resulting in a dislocation of the joints caused by neurological damage. We have no idea why Charcot was photographed naked kicking a football.

Playground, 2001

Maria Marshall, UK

21 min, 35mm film on DVD

When a teenager kicks a ball against a church and the ball is absent, is he questioning faith - as faith is invisible - or is he anti establishment in relation to his parents, religion or authority? Does it compare football with religion? The use of film in *Playground* relates both to Marshall's understanding of sculpture in three dimensions, as light travels through film, and to the rich history filmic rhetoric. By using 35mm film, Marshall posits the Church as a three dimensional object that the boy loops around.

Italia-Brasile '82, 2009

Santo Tolone (IT)

8 min 15sec, DVD

Italia-Brasile '82 mimics the camera movements of the famous Italy-Brazil World Cup quarterfinal match in 1982, but on an entirely different landscape: that of a dam between two cities in Northern Italy. The rigorous visual grammar of a sports show is thus replaced by the free swaying gaze on landscape, and the landscape becomes as charged as the field of play.