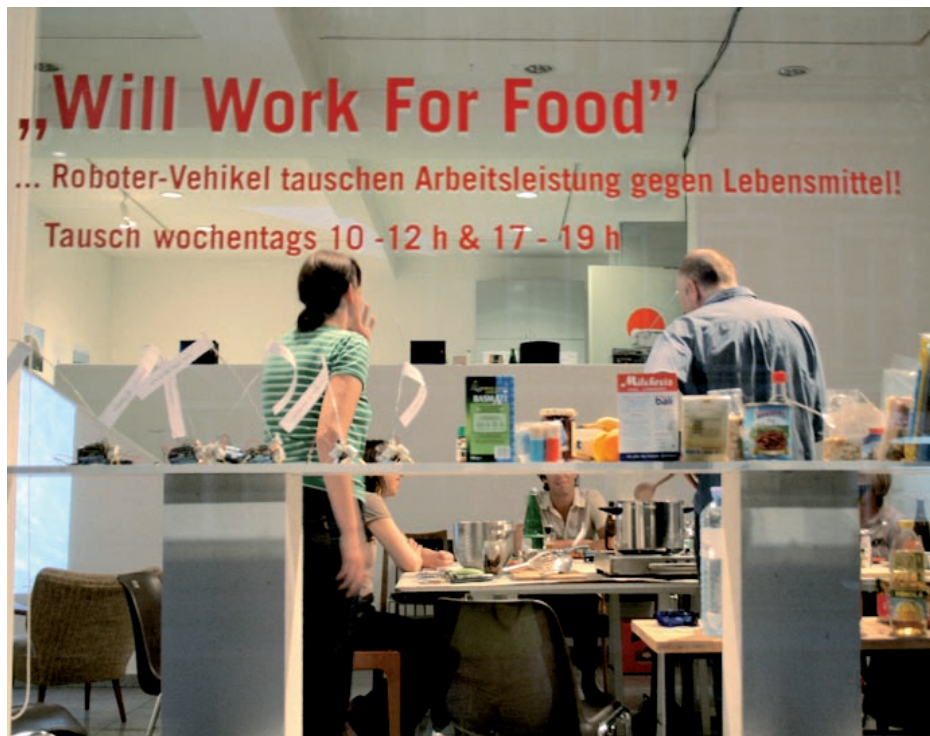


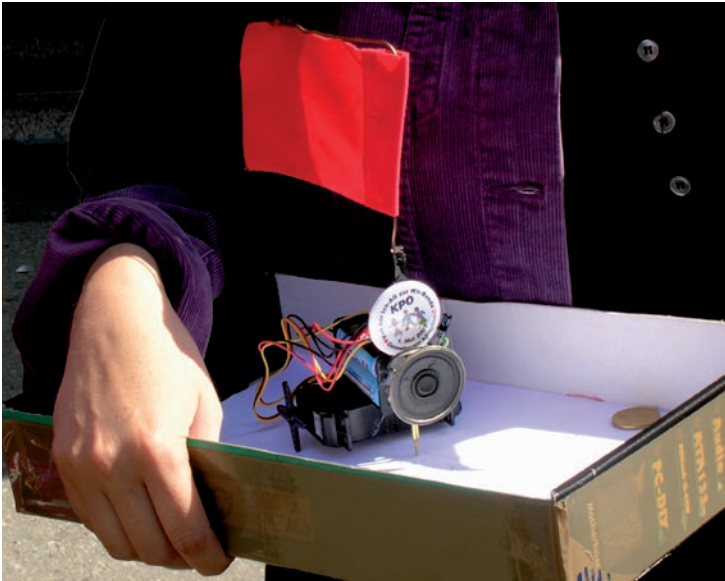
Will Work For Food

A project about labour and barter economy

Karl Heinz Jeron 2007

<http://willworkforfood.projektraum.org>





The “Will Work For Food” happening deals with the desire to find a new definition for labour and the act of working.

“Will Work For Food” (WWFF) takes a position towards the question what role labour plays in a time, when full employment becomes an unattainable utopian conception. It deals with a re-assessment of labour, its disjunction from covering the cost-of-living of the individual. An essay by French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu, his “Notes in ordinary of the resistance against the neo-liberal invasion” (published under the title “Contre-feu” – Backfire) gives some suggestions: “It is high time to create the preconditions for a collective outline of a social utopia.” Bourdieu describes a potential social network that actively offers resistance against neo-liberalism. “Contre-feu”, backfire, is a term originally coming from fire suppression and denotes a controlled fire, which is set in order to control the spread of a conflagration. Translated into art it means to seize resources that are inherent in the system, re-code them and put them into practise against the status quo. Or more concise: Fight fire with backfire!

With reference to the utopian ideas of the 50s and 60s of the 20th century which yearned for the liberation of humanity from any form of labour WWFF plays with the possibility to fulfil this dream and takes over the role of the precarious subject. The WWFF vehicles are communication catalysts. They give an occasion and a space for social interaction and discussion. The WWFF vehicles stand for a guaranteed basic income.

How does it work?

Small robotic vehicles trade their manpower for food. The vehicles can draw and whistle. People can borrow one of the vehicles and let them work for them.

After completing the assignment the vehicles have to be returned or given over to somebody else who needs their skills. The bartered food will be prepared during a “Will Work For Food” Happening.

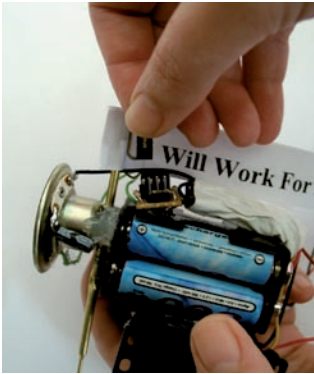
Each of the vehicles is equipped with a ballpoint pen and loudspeakers. The melodies – “Happy Birthday” and “The Internationale” – are stored on a micro controller which also operates the speakers and the randomized movements of the motor.

WILL WORK FOR FOOD“ at
Kunstraum Goethestrasse Linz, Austria

During May 2007 small robotic vehicles drew and sang for the community of Linz. This service of the vehicles was bartered for free choice food items. The exchange began on 1 May, Labour day, during the rally on the Hauptplatz in Linz. From 2 to 27 May people could pick up a robot in the Kunstraum Goethestrasse. The collected food was cooked in the gallery on the weekend from 25 to 27 May. The „Will Work For Food“ dinner was public and free of charge.



The first work assignment in Linz took place on 1 May for the Austrian Communist Party.



The guests were surprised. A delicious three-course meal was prepared from the provided food items.