

(about the project united by stripes)

to make good art, you have to stripe your ass

Athletic Stripes (by owner Adidas) with Zidane's body as animator. It almost causes the eyes to short circuit, spinning around the opponent, turning into a Gordian knot as the rest of the 'stripy' team converge on him after the goal has been scored.

'They came in all stripes'

Pop(ular) stripes flirt with being different. Broad stripes. Banarama's shirts and Dutch clown Bassie, politician Pim Fortuyn's ties. Stripes that need attention, clamour for it, act the fool.

Marine Stripes on a lady's sweater as she sits on a patio by the sea. Kissing the man on the other side of the table. Picasso photographed wearing the same sweater. Watching the striped pattern, the wearer slips off.

Revolutionary stripes. Sewing a flag and draping it around waist and chest. Curling ribbon into a rosette. The stripes of the committed fan/patriot and pioneer. An elegant coat with narrow stripes worn during the French Revolution.

Domestic Stripes, clean stripes, close to the skin. Between inside and out, top and bottom. See me/don't see me. A man in a black suit walking through the park. The jacket draped over his shoulders like a cape. Underneath, hidden arms and torso enveloped in a lightly striped shirt.

Stripes generate a way of seeing, an approach. They co-opt meaning or - perhaps more precisely - absorb them. The stripe as a couple. The stripe and its wearer.

A couple, but also a couple of outsiders. Incorporation and exclusion. As revealed by the triple meaning of the French verb 'rayer': drawing stripes, erasing and underlining.

Gangster stripes
Gipsy stripes
Pop stripes
Athletic stripes
Algerian stripes
Military stripes
Revolutionary stripes
Roman stripes
Royal stripes
Marine stripes
etc.

United by Stripes studies the meaning and usage of stripes in clothing in order to use this as the basis for developing new stories, ideas and uses for clothing collections. The project included presentations, workshops and lectures. Info: www.thisisnotparis.com