

# ROCCO AND HIS BROTHERS

GERMANY

Rocco and His Brothers (Rocco und seine Brüder) consistently focus on urban space. Their art is illegal with a penchant for adrenaline kicks. That's why the Berlin art collective with a graffiti background always acts anonymously. Their subversive actions and installations are directed against the working methods of tabloid journalism, gentrification, colonialism, racism, discrimination, everyday surveillance, forced prostitution, the church, and capitalism. To draw attention to the catastrophic conditions in textile and fashion production, they installed a symbolic graveyard with gravestones made of over 30 paper bags in front of the Primark shop in Berlin. They built a shooting range at a Christmas market in Oberndorf, the town where weapons manufacturer Heckler & Koch also has its headquarters. In front of the right-wing populist AfD headquarters, they installed fake *Stolpersteine*

(commemorative markers) for fallen Wehrmacht soldiers, and symbolically buried affordable housing. For one action, they hijack loudspeakers in an underground station and penetrate the audience with an educational campaign on colonialism. For another action, they unceremoniously erected a prayer bench in front of an EC cash machine. They also hijacked all the German flags in an allotment garden colony and sewed them into a new flag with the inscription “§ 90a StGB,” a reference to the ban on damaging flags of the Federal Republic of Germany. “We want to disturb people in their comfort zone,” says Rocco. And it's about generating awareness, being loud and provocative. “We don't want to talk politics over red wine over the weekend or rattle off socially critical phrases. We want to go out and punch people in the face. But in a positive sense.” (AB)

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Ripmark  
2018, intervention



2



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1