
Contrary to popular opinion,

a DYSTOPIA *is*

not a utopia that has been dissed.

By: Agnieszka Kurant

If the French existentialists often spoke about the absurd as a sense of embedded failure or meaninglessness, the latter has become the point of departure for the Italian, Paris-based artist Davide Bertocchi. His works confront the impossibility, absurdity and uselessness of certain existing or invented objects or actions. But Bertocchi treats the representational forms of utopian thinking with the jarring logic of science and everyday life mechanisms. The codes of divergent systems are juxtaposed in one work creating a creolized, absurd logic which, though sound and consistent, is devoid of any sense.

Are you ready? is a fictive quest for the twelve metal letters forming the first ever radio transmitted message. Bertocchi turns the setting—performed by the local Metal Detectors Club on a beach in Wales—into a spaghetti western desert by planting huge inflatable cacti in the environs. The self-defeating mixture of different logics suggests a beautiful landscape of monumental action yet with no sense and content. [...]

