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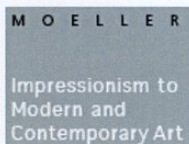
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## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

March 30, 2006



Throwing paper planes in MoMA's central atrium

## Planes of Protest

by Robert Ayers

**NEW YORK, March 29, 2006** - On Friday afternoon last week, slap in the middle of its one free-admission period of the week, the Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan found itself the target of an eye-catching protest.

Irritated by what she regarded as the misleading nature of the museum's current *On-Site: New Architecture in Spain* exhibition, Jana Leo, a Spanish architect/philosopher and Princeton grad, organized "an appropriation of the public space of the museum and its audience."

The form of this intervention, dubbed *Without Invitation*, was the flight of hundreds of paper airplanes—each a folded copy of a polemic text written by Dr. Leo—into MoMA's central atrium.

Dr. Leo's dissatisfaction was not merely with this particular architecture show, it turns out, but with the fact that MoMA is a principal example of what she calls the "art mall." Talking to ArtInfo, Dr. Leo explained that her protest was, "a way to escape all the politics and all of the mechanisms of art, but at the same time to take advantage of the fact that many people visit the museum."

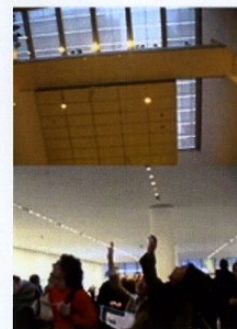
So what is an art mall? we asked her.

"I'm claiming that museums are not really public spaces because, even if they are open to the public, the programs that they have are more about selling products than about human values," she told us.

In keeping with present-day practice, Dr. Leo used the internet as her principal means of organizing *Without Invitation* and of recruiting participants. Consequently, though she had arrived at MoMA confident of the support of a couple of dozen colleagues and acquaintances, she was delighted to discover that something like twice that number, many of whom she did not know, took part.

And that does not include the many members of the public for whom the event was a gleefully received happening. Apparently many people hung on to the airplanes and took them home.

Thus far however, ArtInfo is the only news organization to have paid *Without Invitation* any attention.



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