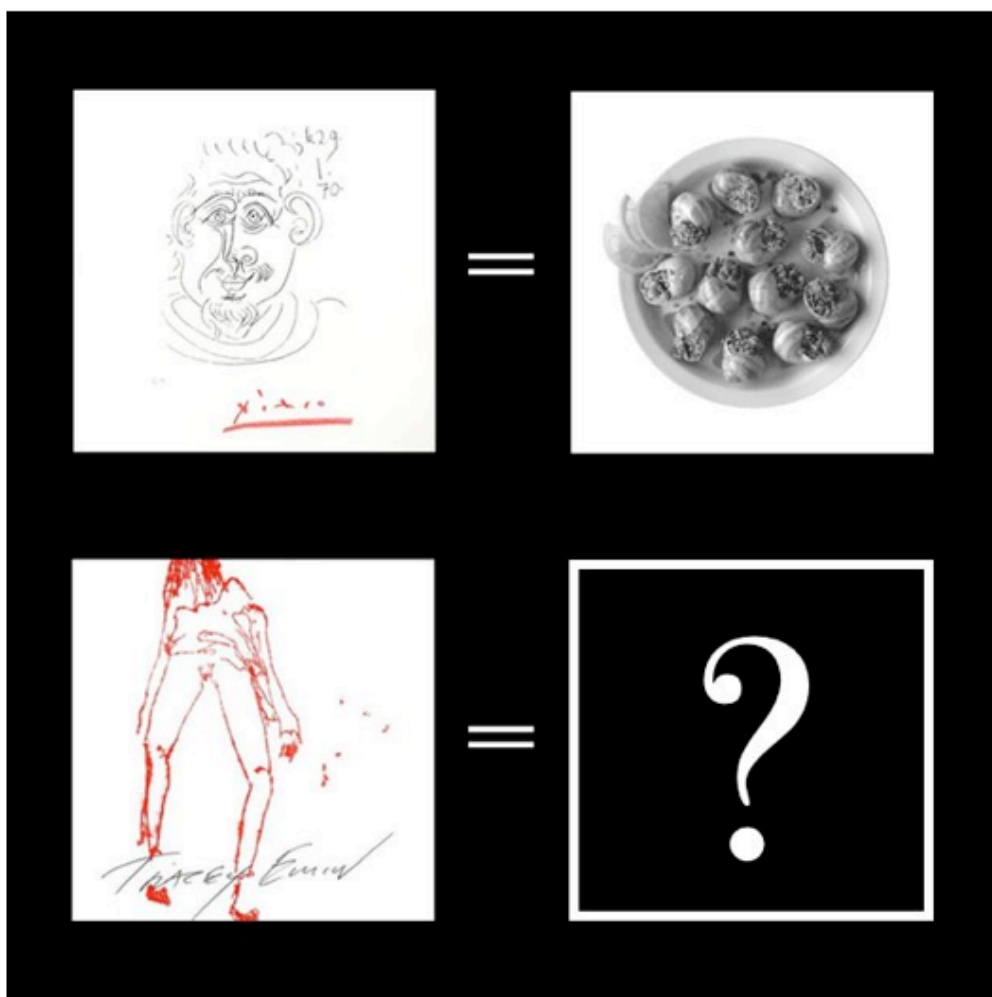




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Today's Pop is a battle. A barter battle. We give you three art based recycling projects - you pick the winner. Or even better, you support all three...



BARTER CULTURE

It is no coincidence that the downfall of economic growth (yes, that boring recession word again) has been matched by a boom in barter culture.

Let's be honest: the world cannot function without hard cash but times such as these do force us to replace money as the method of exchange.

The 'Art World' has always been a rife example:

Picasso exchanging art for food at his local Lapin Agile Cafe. Discarded to make space for more tables the paintings have since been eaten by rats.



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CHANGE
ROOM

Michael Andrews (part of the Francis Bacon set) famously painted a mural for the Colony Room to get himself out the the sticky situation of paying a mounting tab. The list goes on..

But what's interesting is how this contracting world economy has induced a modern interpretation of barter culture. We found three we want you to check out.

A group of individuals have gathered under the name of Art Barter to hold an exhibition of emerging and established artists (Tracey Emin & Mat Collishaw included). The catch: hard cash is not accepted, exchange only. Five years dental care for a Tracey Emin?

Art Barter: October. The Rag Factory E1. October 2009.

Likewise, a small London based project know as the Exchange Room is questioning the role of an art gallery. A collection of young London based artists have taken the market into their own hands and are rewriting the rules. The premise seems simple: You can't buy it (read: afford it) then barter for it. And that is what they did: the show is made up of these 'exchanges'.

The Exchange Room: Running from 1st - 8th September. 121 Charing Cross Road.

Prof.Dr. Henrik 't Mannetje from the University of Wageningen in the Netherlands is currently researching the influence of digital networking on recycling. The research is part of a larger scheme partnered by several other universities in Europe. The effort is designed to try and see whether one can set up a business with only recycled office equipment by means of using digital media only.

The idea is to take a photograph of an office item which someone would like to dispose of/donate (sharpie to desk chair, paperclip to bookshelves) and send an image with the attached questionnaire. Please note that the research period ends on September the 15th. When enough material have been collected the beneficiaries will be contacted to come pick up the goods. Start flicking those paperclips!

<http://www.wageningenuniversiteit.nl/UK/>

Notice these modern day interpretations are not being used to get out of tight situations but seemingly in response to the recent failing of the free market as we know it.