

Statement running with the beast
September 2008, Amsterdam

**DURING THE MAKING OF THIS VIDEO NO ANIMALS WERE INJURED.
NO BLOOD WAS SHED.**

ABOUT THE VIDEO

This is a video about two artists who have created the conditions to capture rage. It's about capturing patterns of nature.

Roel:

“In my work I like to create tools or conditions in order to reveal processes.”

We are aware of the fact that some people will not like this work of art because of the way the cocks are used. We know that using animals for entertainment is heavily under discussion. Nevertheless we chose to make this video.

With this video we do not want to stimulate or promote organized cockfights in any way.

We did not hire, or consult anybody involved in organizing cockfights.

We did not hire, or consult anybody who is a subcontractor for organized cockfights.

We want to investigate patterns of nature like Thomas Edison did in 1894.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U50tuzEGi6M>

ABOUT COCKFIGHTS

Cockfights used to be a big cultural tradition all over the world. We are happy that this is forbidden (in most parts of the world). We also regret that most animals in factory farming are treated as products without any dignity.

Fighting cocks can be found in nature; a cock will defend its territory by putting up the feathers in his neck and pecking his enemy.

ABOUT THE SHOOT

For legal reasons the video has been shot in Bangkok, Thailand.

12 different cocks were used in the shoot (one day) and about 8 fights took place with a duration of between 20 sec and 3 minutes each.

When not performing, the birds were completely relaxed and walking loose on the set. By the middle of the day all the birds knew that one of them was dominant. All of them stopped fighting. This meant that we had to stop filming. In the evening two new birds made us able to finish the video.

INK

The ink that is used is Ecoline. A waterbased ink, often used in pre-schools.

ANIMAL HANDLERS

Two professional animal handlers were on set all day.

PHYSICAL TRAUMA'S

No artificial means to engage the cocks into fighting were used.

No spurs or knives were used on the birds

AFTER THE SHOOT

After the shoot the cocks were cleaned and professionally checked for any injury.

None were injured in any way.

The crew

Roel Wouters, director

Ivo de Jongh, producer

Vargo Bawits, executive producer

Sal Kroonenberg, director of photography

Björn Ottenheim, musician

Daan Schinkel, musician

Santisak Dulayapitak, animal handler (via Workshop Studio)

Goeroemedia BV, production company (Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Workshop Studio Co., Ltd line-production company (Bangkok, Thailand)