



*Serpentes parvulæ fallunt nec
publice conquiruntur; ubi aliqua
solitam mensuram transit et in
monstrum excrevit, ubi fontes
sputu inficit et, si adflavit, deurit
obteritque, quacumque incessit,
ballistis petitur. Possunt verba dare
et evadere pusilla mala, ingentibus
obviam itur.*

LUCIUS ANNÆI SENECAE «DE CLEMENTIA»
I.XXV.IV. ANCIENT ROME, 55-56.



- CACAO
- CHOCOLATE COINS
- NUMISMATICS
- EUROCENTRISM
- FORCED LABOR
- CHILD LABOR

2012* >

ILLEGAL TENDER

This series consists of conceptual artworks that examine the socio-economic histories surrounding cacao, chocolate, and the enduring legacies of exploitation tied to these commodities. The works are presented in solo exhibitions alongside interventions.

LOCATIONS / EVENTUAL

Exhibitions will be held in cacao-producing nations, those involved in the transatlantic slave trade, as well as locations historically tied to chocolate production and consumption.

Exhibition spaces (example)

- Public buildings (city hall, parliaments)
- National institutions (mint, central banks)
- Public cultural centers linked to the exhibition's themes

Intervention (example)

- Public spaces (squares, tourist areas)
- Airports, central stations
- Banks and shopping centers

ARTWORKS

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Dos marcos alemanes | exhibition |
| Moneda de cambio · i, ii | exhibition |
| Hobby of kings | exhibition |
| Dëuro | exhibition |
| Cambio | intervention |
| Pamphlet | publication |

ILLEGAL TENDER

DIPTYCH



DOS MARCOS ALEMANES

A diptych composed of two austere parcel-gilt and black bolection frames with double matting and black velvet canvas, each displaying two chocolate coins that mimic legal tender.

The top (or left) frame features designs inspired by the obverse and reverse of the first edition of the 1 German Mark coin from 1950. The bottom (or right) frame showcases designs reflecting the obverse and reverse of the Euro 50-cent coin in its German version from 2002.

DYPTICH

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Size | 35 x 30 x 4 cm each |
| Montage | side by side or stacked |
| · Medium height | 154 cm (center of frames at average German women's eye level) |

ILLEGAL TENDER

MURAL

MONEDA DE CAMBIO

This two installations comprises refers to historical economic value associated with cacao and forced labor.

The first features 4,000 cacao beans cladding the wall, representing the recorded price of a slave in the Soconusco during the time of Cortés. The second installation consists of two sacks of cacao beans, either spilled as a tumulus or hung above, symbolizing the cost in cacao beans for a child subjected to forced labor in Africa this century. Furthermore, it highlights cases where these children, upon reaching adulthood, are rewarded with a small parcel of land capable of yielding only two sacks.



i. MURAL

Materials

Wall decoration / Site Specific
4,000 bean, cacao Criollo, Soconusco, Mexico.

Montage

Non-toxic, invisible adhesive.
Grid defined by Castilian inches.
If gluing cacao seeds is not possible,
a natural MDF wall will be installed instead.

ii. TWO SACKS

Materials

Floor installation / Site specific
ca. 130kg, Cacao Forastero, not traceable, Ghana.
2 sacks from Ghana (visitors allowed to take the seeds).
An alternative version requires hanging the two jute
cocoa sacks with sisal thread sewn to them.





HOBBY OF KINGS

This installation showcases a collection of chocolate coins, featuring hundreds of items that resemble legal tender from around the globe, presented in a numismatic style tailored to the exhibition's context.



| | |
|-------------------|---|
| COLLECTION | +500 designs of chocolate coins / Site-specific |
| Montage | Illuminated vitrines |
| Coin descriptions | Size, weight, wrapping material, and color; design details on both the obverse and reverse, including denomination, year, and country |
| Highlight colours | Dark Blue (chocolate coin display) Reflex Blue, Process Yellow (communication) |



DĚŮRO (LATIN)

- to burn up, consume
- to destroy, to wither

DĚŮRO

Chocolate disc wrapped in metallic foil. It features the common face of the first edition of the 1 euro coin, while the reverse displays symbols of cocoa-producing countries, highlighting their independence from primary chocolate-producing and consuming nations.

Each DĚŮro is made from uncertainly traced African cacao, which raises implications of forced and child labor, and is priced at a fixed rate of 1 euro.

For its first edition, a total of 6,000 copies were minted in Madrid on October 12, 2022. In their reverse they featured the design of the 'SUD' coin of insurgent general José María Morelos. This DĚŮro was presented in Logroño both in the exhibition and in the urban intervention.

CHOCOLATE COIN

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| First edition: "DĚŮro mexicano" | 6000 copies, Madrid (12.OCT.2022) |
| Size | Diameter: 2.8 cm |
| | Weight: 2.5 g |
| Materials | Milk chocolate (ca. 1 cacao seed per coin) Wrapped in golden aluminum foil. |
| Montage exhibition | pedestal, illuminated acrylic cylinder |





CAMBIO

Alongside the exhibition, this urban intervention facilitates the trade of DĚuros at a 1:1 rate to the euro.

These context-specific interventions will feature small exchange booths or kiosks in public and semi-public areas, such as train terminals or airports. An ATM-inspired exchange machine may also facilitate impersonal transactions at tourist hotspots. DĚuros can be acquired by card or cash in local currencies, as well as with cacao seeds, with specific exchange rates determined at the time of the intervention.

Each transaction includes a local edition of a pamphlet related to the series.

The booths may also serve as information points for the exhibition and for distribution of the “illegal tender” catalogue-notebook.

URBAN INTERVENTION

Site specific

i. Exchange booth/store

ii. Exchange machine



PAMPHLET

This pamphlet provides historical insights, with specific highlights related to the context of the exhibition and intervention, offering detailed information to enhance engagement with the artworks.

By examining past and present exploitative practices surrounding cacao and chocolate, it presents a nuanced critique that equips readers to decode each artistic expression from the Illegal Tender series. It encourages a reflective examination of the intersections of eurocentrism, slavery, and commodification, revealing how cacao has transformed into a marker of economic gain and systemic exploitation. This invites vital dialogue about the uncomfortable truths underpinning our modern indulgences.



| PAMPHLET | by antipodes café |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Editions | 2022, Logroño. 2023, Montevideo. |
| Size | 21 x 29,7 cm |
| Format | 8 page leaflet · pamphlet |
| Print | CMYK (digital) |
| Distribution (*) | Exhibition/Intervention |
| Price | GRATIS |