



Nr. and Title

U 102

Intervention #1

Location

Spain

Users

Homeless people and people evicted by banks

Maintained by

Plataforma de Afectados por la Hipoteca de Torrevieja y Vega Baja

Duration

2012

Category

politics, economy, social

Initiator(s)

Núria Güell

Description

58,241 evictions were conducted in Spain in 2011, mostly through real estate speculation by the Mediterranean Savings Bank. In Intervention #1, the artist created a cooperative through which she contracted a construction worker (who himself had been evicted from his own house) to remove the entrance doors to other foreclosed properties. In this way, houses were accessible and open to public use, and occupants were not liable for housebreaking. Since the process of hiring the worker was done through a legal entity, it prevented the worker who removed the doors as well as the occupants from being legally liable.

Goals

To reinstate to public use houses and warehouses that were purchased by banks through public bailouts at 50% less of their appraised value. To make visible the legal strategies used by banks to steal from the state and citizens with total impunity.

Beneficial outcomes

The project offered houses to citizens who do not have homes. Instead of the citizens, the project itself assumes responsibility for opening the houses. On a pedagogic level, the project promotes legal strategies which citizens can use to avoid legal liability, adopting similar strategies to those that banks themselves use to avoid culpability.

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