

T-SHIRT TRANSFER

*zonder staat straat

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ELIO DI RUPO LOVES PUSSY
BART DE WEVER LOVES COCK

*a political statement on the Belgian condition...

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[nieuwland 68 b, 9000 Ghent, BELGIUM.]

<http://www.nachtschimmen.eu/pdf/ZSTtransfers.pdf>

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BACKGROUND INFO :

Pages 5 and 6 contain the graphic art intended to be printed by an ink-jet printer onto iron-on transfer sheets which are available at most stationary and computer shops. They are ready to print onto pages intended for white or light coloured fabrics which differ considerably to transfers intended for black fabric. You will notice that the designs appear mirror-image and they are intended to be printed this way. If you require them to be printed onto black fabric, the printer's mirror-image setting will probably have to be chosen.

The original intention was to print the designs onto the front and the back of a white t-shirt. It doesn't matter which one of the two you choose to print on the front, although it is important to note that the political message of the art-work requires that both designs be seen. The two pictures are taken from a five-panel triptych art-work which is three meters long and almost ninety centimeters high. Although the cock/pussy design may suggest a rather crude sexual connotation, the work is, in fact, entirely political in nature. It comments upon an important period of 514 days that didn't end until 5 December 2011 and that drew international attention to Belgium after it broke the world record of 249 days in failing to form a government. It was all brought about by an election in 2011, which resulted in this incredibly long period of negotiation, until it was ended by the formation of an unbalanced and inefficient coalition. Never before had so many holes been poked into the bastion of democracy as an institution when the politicians elected failed so dismally and for so long to live up to the expectations of their electorates; but it was the logical conclusion of a long period of conflict between the two major forces which continue to divide Belgium: the Flemish (Dutch-speaking) and the Wallonian (French-speaking) communities. The faces of a major politician appears on the top left-hand corner of each of the two transfers. The first is of the Italian-born Elio Di Rupo, representing the socialist party and the Wallonian community. He ended up becoming the first openly gay prime-minister of Belgium, and the fact that he appears on the "I Love Pussy" transfer is done so with a considerable amount of irony. Bart De Wever, head of the conservative Flemish NVA party and an arguably frightening and unpleasant addition to the Belgian political landscape, appears on the "I Love Cock" transfer. Another Flemish symbol

appears to cast a rather phallic-looking shadow onto the inside curve of the love heart. It is of the *Ijzertoren* (iron tower) that has become a symbol of the Flemish stride for independence and it's a monument which receives a yearly pilgrimage of Flemish striders, conservatives and neo-nazis and which absurdly celebrates a debunked myth concerning the death of Flemish soldiers during the first world war (wrongly blamed upon French-speaking commanders). Despite the penile references, Bart De Wever is most certainly heterosexual and the intention is not to suggest otherwise. In fact, the references are almost entirely asexual. The 'cock' (rooster) depicted behind the word is the symbol of the Wallonian community. In comparison, the lion represents the Flemish community; the 'pussy' reference is just to this big cat depicted behind the word. The colours of the Belgian flag adorn the squares within the two designs, and it is no accident that these two politicians were chosen. The world record breaking period without government resulted from the fact that these two politicians, the winners within their communities of the 2010 election, were unable to come to a mutually satisfactory arrangement; the two designs were posted publically to call for the leaders to embrace their opponents. The fact that the failure in these negotiations resulted from Bart De Wever's absolute refusal to give an inch probably explains why a coalition government was formed without his help; it was ultimately the only way out of the predicament. De Wever, having failed to destroy Belgium, however, ended up becoming the mayor of Antwerp and continues to threaten an already turbulent political environment where he wields his right-wing influence to create an arguably less tolerant Flanders.

It should be noted that I said that the 'cock/pussy' reference was *almost* entirely asexual; although it clearly was a cry for the two politicians to become more tolerant towards the opposing community (aiding them to form the government which alluded them for so long), I'm also referencing the testosterone powered political world which suggests that all decisions men make are (arguably) influenced by their sexual desires.

INSTRUCTIONS :

Before you iron on the transfers, consider the following points:

- [1] you'll need an ink-jet printer to print the transfer.
- [2] Let the ink printed on the iron-on transfer dry thoroughly before handling.
- [3] Trim away any unprinted paper around the designs.
- [4] Transfer the images onto the t-shirt using a heated hand iron without steam.

When you are ready to print your image, follow these steps:

- [1] Insert two pages of transfer paper into your printer. It is easy to tell which side to print on, as one side is blank (to print on), and one side is usually marked with lines. Make sure that the paper is not creased.
- [2] In your printer driver, select the highest dpi setting and the correct paper setting for your type of printer. Current CANON and LEXMARK drivers usually have 't-shirt transfer' in the list; for printers on which you can't find something so specific, choose high quality glossy paper or special coated paper.
- [3] Print the transfers by printing this document and choosing to print only pages 5 and 6.

HAND IRONING YOUR IRON ON TRANSFER IMAGE

Preheat the iron on its highest temperature setting for at least 8 minutes. The iron must be very hot! Do not use steam.

Do not use an ironing board, bare wood, glass, or metal surface for ironing. Place the pillowcase on the ironing surface with the open end hanging over the edge and smooth it flat so that there are no wrinkles.

Place the t-shirt on the pillowcase so that the area that you want the image to be transferred to is centered on the pillowcase surface. Smooth out the fabric so that there are no wrinkles.

Preheat the garment for a few seconds to remove any excess moisture from the fabric and allow the fabric to cool. This will aid in the adhesion of the image to the fabric

Place the image to be transferred face down on the garment in the desired position.

The image now needs to be 'set' on the fabric (so that it does not move while being transferred). To do this, press the iron firmly over the transfer for 15-20 seconds in several areas, making sure to cover the entire transfer in this process. It is important that you press *straight down* for this step and *lift up* the iron completely when repositioning to do another area. Then, using a circular motion and *light pressure*, evenly heat the transfer for another 15-20 seconds. Put the iron down and gently rub the hot transfer with your soft, clean cloth for 5-10 seconds.

WASHING & DRYING INSTRUCTIONS

Always turn t-shirt inside out. This will minimize the amount of abrasion that the transfer will encounter with other garments in the wash.

Wash the garment in cold water using a mild detergent. **DO NOT USE BLEACH.**

Remove the garment from the wash immediately and allow to air dry. If you are going to tumble dry, use the *air only* setting. By doing this over the life of the garment, you will be ensuring that your image stays clear and bright.

TROUBLE SHOOTING TIPS

Iron on Transfer looks yellow -

Heat may be too high and is scorching the surface of the transfer. Confirm temperature setting is 325 degrees or cotton setting. The heat generated by irons may vary greatly by brand and model.

Iron on Transfer is not adhering to surface -

Make sure the backing has been removed before transferring. Check temperature setting is 325 degrees or cotton setting. If temperature is too low, the transfer will not react sufficiently to bond to shirt. Increase pressure. Increasing pressure on the iron allows the transfer to be pushed in the fabric pattern

Iron on Transfer has bonded with the bottom of the iron -

Make sure that the ironing sheet was used between the iron and the transfer.

Iron on Transfer is cracking after being washed or dried -

Pre-wash shirt before applying transfer. This eliminates some possibility of shrinkage that may stress the transferred image. Increase pressure when transferring image. If insufficient pressure is used, the transfer will not bond properly with the shirt. The resulting slack may crack in the wash.

The edges of the iron on transfer are not adhering -

When hand ironing it is vital that the edges are ironed extremely well; apply the most heat and pressure to the edges of the transfer.

TRANSFER PAGE 1
[intended for front or back of white t-shirt]



TRANSFER PAGE 2
[intended for front or back of white t-shirt]



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