

THIS WAY UP

Wot Vargen returns for a fourth outing. Showcasing murals, drawings and vehicles Merny has encountered on travels around Mexico and Europe. Turn the book this way up and enjoy. For new readers, Wot Vargen is an ongoing art project inspired by transport and vehicles. For other books in the series check out Mernywernz.com



FOR PAPA CHANGO – HE'S JUST A LITTLE BABY











Previous Pages: A series of vehicles painted in Berlin in Autumn 2018 Below: A wonky spanish truck I painted in a derelict building in Valencia very early one morning and a cutaway of a Jumbo Jet painted one autumn evening in Friedrichshain for a man who introduced himself to us as Doctor Klokki.

VALENCIA. ES





Above: Painting in Loures in an abandoned cement factory alongside Billy and Koctel. We gatecrashed a painting festival there and painted in this cement factory for three whole days. We painted all over it. Later the organiser of the painting festival got really pissed off and told us the police were looking for our van. They never found us.















Mexico City is an epic beast of monstrous proportions; addictive and exhilarating. It's a hard place to leave. People love to tell horror stories about Mexico City but from my own experience, it can be a very welcoming place.

Mexico City natives eyes widened when they heard about my plan to paint in the Buenos Aires district. They all said to be very

careful and asked if anyone would go with me.

Lorelei and Karla had walls for us to paint in the Buenos Aires district. Karla showed me around the area packed with small car part workshops. Each one stuffed to overflowing with vehicle components. This was not a spot for tourists and there was a lot happening. A huge orange truck pulled up right in front of me and my wall and I set about painting it. Colonia Buenos Aires was so welcoming that a group of us returned several times over the next week bringing along some locals who had never even visited that part of the city. Slowly we took over a whole corner with murals. When we finished painting local families came over with children, parents and grandparents showering us with gratitude and giving invites to dinner and offers of helping in any way possible.

Papa Chango (Jair Meza) from Mexico City took us on a number of adventures. The last night of the time in Mexico City was spent at his family home, painting his house and eating the most delicious

Mexican feast made by his mum.

My visit to the town of Iguala in Guerrero was another warm and welcoming adventure. In 2014 a bus of protesting students disappeared in Iguala and was never seen again. Subsequent investigations have revealed that the students were detained before being moved to a nearby garbage dump. There they were killed and their bodies burnt and disposed of. The name Iguala has become synonymous with this atrocity. People warned me to be very careful when visiting. After painting for a few hours in the sun as part of a workshop with local teenagers the director of culture for Iguala drove us speedily to a local restaurant and ordered a lot of mezcal and pozole soup before popping us back on the bus to Mexico City for three hours.











OAXACA CITY, MX









Walls painted in Chupala and Guadalajara alongside Billy & Bue The Warrior over a few days in December 2018.

CHUPALA, MX























GOLF KART murals from Isla Holbox. A tiny island with no cars or roads. Everyone drives Golf Karts around drinking beers. Kids drive past lazily texting and withdrawing 80 dollars from a cash machine will cost you more than 100 pounds sterling. I swapped the bottom mural for an afternoon of driving around the island.













OAXACA CITY. MX

Whilst looking for walls in Oaxaca City, Billy and I got talking to some men sat drinking beers outside a tyre shop. There was a long wall covered in tags, but the lady owner didn't want it to be painted. With some persistence, she was talked around and a few days later it was time to make a start. It was 5 pm and less than a week until Christmas. Across the street, the men from the tire shop started to set up a table and friends of theirs arrived with food and drinks for some Christmas festivities. They invited us to eat with them and plied us with Mezcal and beer. They spoke no English and in the beginning, our limited Spanish meant conversation was pretty basic. The food was good and the booze kept coming. Before long it was approaching midnight, the wall was unfinished and a promise had been made to paint Felix's house in a nearby Barrio the next morning; our final day in the city. The following day was a whirlwind of hungover painting, drinking and walking back and forth between walls and paint shops. Starting in the early morning at the unfinished tyre shop wall and finishing long after sunset at Felix's house, where there also happened to be a children's birthday party in full swing. With our bus leaving in the early morning and no way to get a picture, Billy hitched a ride on our host's motorbike at 7am to get some pictures. BURRACHOS!!!













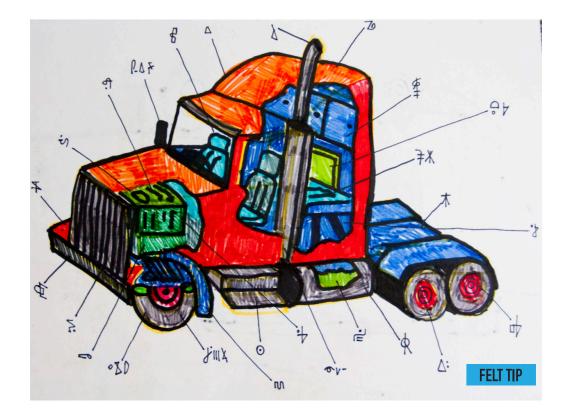


A series of Watercolours cross sections painted in Portugal during the hottest two weeks of 2018. All the works were painted outside with temperatures reaching 47 degrees celcius. The van on the following page was completed on a Sunday afternoon shortly before fleeing a forest fire less than 7km away from our position by a lake close to Portimao.



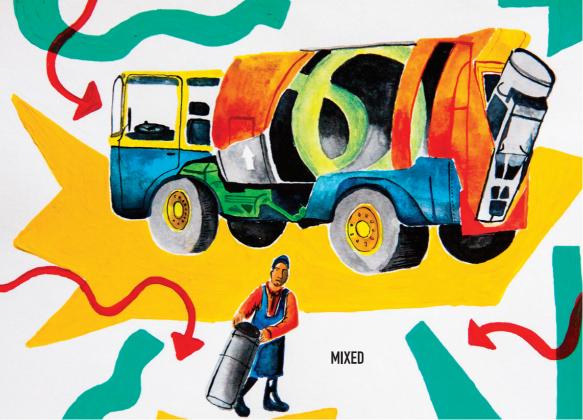
WATERCOLOUR











WATERCOLOUR



FELT TIP





ACRYLIC





















ACRYLIC







FELT TIP



Wot Vargen is a series of books documenting an ongoing exploration of transport, machinery, vehicles and engineering. Documented in the form of cryptic diagrams, nonsensical cutaways in the style of engineering illustrations and frenzied murals. All of which demonstrate an anarchic embrace of imperfection, a sense of creative, technical nonchalance and a liberating sense of originality.

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ABOVE: Spanish truck drivers Frank and Dave with their copies of Wot Vargen at 2AM on the ferry from Valencia to Palma, Mallorca.



