



**Marcus Neustetter and Walter Stach during the South Africa versus Spain match .** Image courtesy of the artists

## Artists on the ball

**T**he football bug has bitten the art scene hard and it looks like the bump is here to stay until at least the end of the 2010 Soccer World Cup. Almost every major art institution in the country has their own "football" exhibition in the pipelines, scheduled to coincide with the World Cup, just as many smaller galleries and artists have taken the Confederations Cup as an opportunity to usher in the soccer mania early.

The fact of the matter is that football-themed exhibitions are something we're going to have to get used to unless we plan to hibernate or take up philately for the next year. Thankfully, it does seem that some artists will spare us the kids'-party-style themed smorgasbords, offering smaller, more focused (and therefore more interesting), event-based initiatives instead.

**Marcus Neustetter** and Austrian artist **Walter Stach's** collaborative drawing exercises based on the Fifa 2009 Confederations Cup are a case in point. Stach and Neustetter began their collaboration in 2008 at the time of the Uefa

European Championship. Together they developed a project of dialogical "play" drawing, in which 17 local and Austrian artists participated. As Neustetter explains: "The artists would pair up during each of the major games, 'playing' against each other on the same surface. At the start of the match, rules were negotiated between the artists to determine how they would draw or paint in reaction to the game."

For their Confederations Cup effort, Neustetter and Stach have adopted the same modus operandi. Alone in a parking lot in downtown Johannesburg last Saturday night, they flung open a car boot and drew and painted into the night as they listened to Spain beat South Africa. The products of this exercise will be exhibited at Right on the Rim, a new project space in the Arts on Main complex from June 27. The opening event starts at 4pm and the works will be on display for the following week. — *Anthea Buys*

**At Right on the Rim from June 27**