



Ergin Çavuşoğlu  
*Backbench* (2010)  
Five channel synchronized (1920x1080) HD video installation, sound  
Duration: 47:05 min  
Set design by nOffice, Berlin  
Dimensions variable

The *Backbench* project is a multi-channel video installation that reflects on the conditions and the production of cultural discourses, and the impact it generates on social, political, professional and individual levels.

*Backbench* (2010) was initially commissioned and produced for Manifesta 8, in the Region of Murcia, Spain in 2010. The work was initiated by the curators Bassam el Barony and Jeremy Beaudry as a large collaborative project that included the participation of four collectives from North America, The Netherlands and Egypt, two moderators, architects, and Ergin Cavusoglu as the director, principal producer and author of the final video installation. The set was designed by nOffice architecture practice Berlin. The event was principally staged for the camera.

Within these parameters and framework of contextual discourse Ergin Cavusoglu orchestrated complex filming methods with multiple cameras, but however he did not choreograph the event in a scripted format as in a number of his previous epic video installation works. The only parts that were scripted were the exterior shots around the town of Murcia, and the interior shots of the former post office building Antiguo edificio de Correos, Murcia, where the work was eventually installed and exhibited during the biennial.

The content of the work is mostly reflective of what had happened in the course of the discussions, but during the editing process everything has been repositioned and fictionalised, and contexts often shift drastically.