

*A Photo Tour of the “World Premier of
Counter-“419”-Scam Artwork” in Vic, Spain
at the Associacio per a les Arts
Contemporanies.*



*November 2006 Brian
Wizard*

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Hello, I'm Brian Wizard and I have been combating the ongoing success of the Nigerian-"419"-scam industry through education since 1999. In November 2006, I participated in the *World Premier of Counter-"419- Scam Art Show*. Jeffrey Swartz is the curator of the Associacio per a les Arts Contemporanies gallery, which is located in Vic, Spain.

As you may have heard me say before, the best way to retard, if not defeat, the ongoing success of the fraud industry is through education, not law enforcement. Law enforcement provides a rub that is in its own right expensive for the 419 industry to suffer, yet it is an exercise in futility. Any time you have the word "industry" after a term such a "fraud," you know there is a limitless workforce.

Education, on the other hand, is the answer to the aforementioned question, and that is where I, we, come in. I personally have five counter-419 products, all of which are available for you to share via my website: <https://bwizard.art/ebooks/>.

On the opening night day of the art show, Jeffrey picked me up at my hotel in the outskirts of Barcelona and drove us to the small town of Vic.

Vic is also an old city. It even has one bridge built by the Romans. Old Vic has narrow paths weaving between its stone buildings.



Through this entrance is the art gallery.

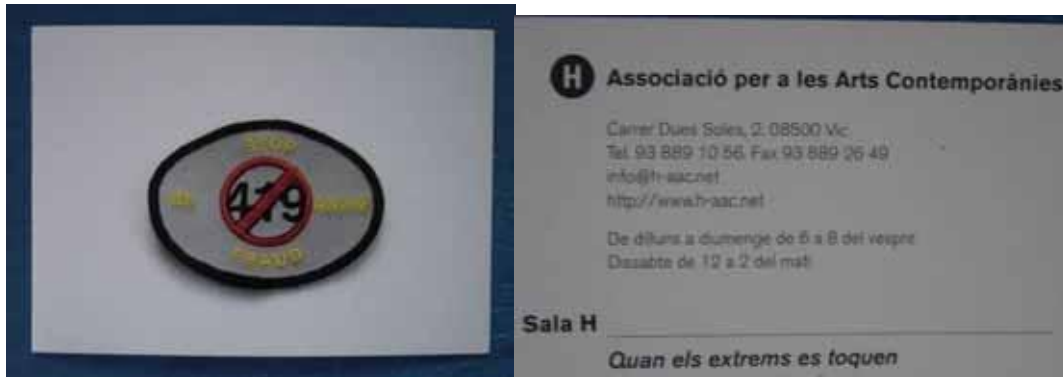


The sign you see reads:



The Association of Contemporary Arts.

Let me take you on a photo tour of the show, but first I want to point out the counter-“419”-scam patch and belt buckle I designed and produce. The gallery decided to use them for the show’s logo on postcard invitations and newspaper articles. This cloth patch is worthy of sewing onto your terrorist hunting vest and the utility of the belt buckle is obvious. You might want to wear each as a conversation piece. They will lend credence to your words of advice when you hear a target/victim announce all will be well once he or she receives that African dream of “*money*.”



DIMECRES, 29/11/2006 - 06:00h

Una exposició inèdita explica una de les estafes per correu electrònic més esteses

S'anomena '419, o el presoner espanyol' i és obra de Jeffrey Swartz i Pep Dardanyà

L'anomenada 'estafa nigeriana' o '419' és un dels frauds que circulen via correu brossa més estesos de la xarxa. Doncs bé, l'exposició '419, o el presoner espanyol' (pdf) que es pot visitar a la [Sala H de Vic](#), explica com funciona l'estafa, que ja s'ha convertit en una de les fonts d'ingressos més importants de Nigèria. És obra de [Jeffrey Swartz](#), però també inclou l'audiovisual 'Correlació 1.1' de Pep Dardanyà.

L'estafa

El frau nigerià comença amb el correu electrònic que explica una història de funcionaris corruptes, cops d'estat, dictadors, accidents, assassinats..., i acaba demanant ajut al receptor del correu per a desbloquejar una gran suma de diners d'un compte bancari o per a

THE PRESIDENCY

APPROVED

THE PRESIDENCY

Beneficiary: R.L.

DATE: 2006/11/29

AMOUNT: 100,000,000.00

THE PRESIDENCY

For the full article visit: http://www.vilaweb.cat/www/noticia?p_idcmp=2173298

Looking into the gallery, you find the walls lined with informative material and the floor space filled with glass-topped display cases containing books, CDs, films, and accessories.

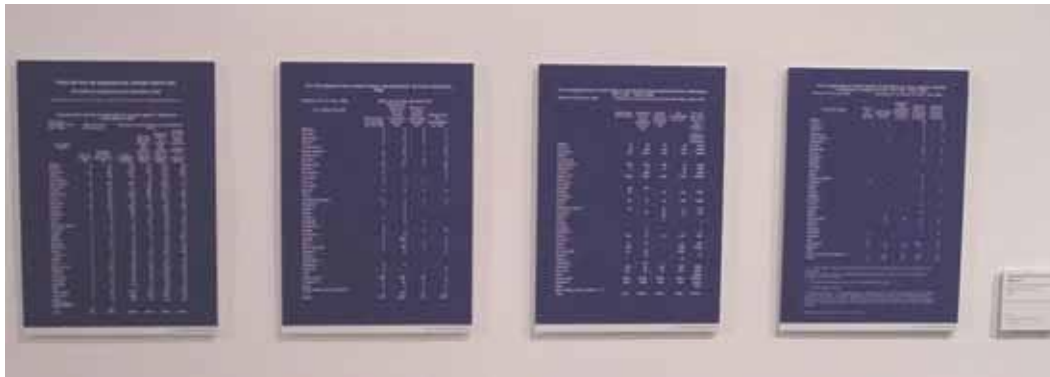


High on the left wall, the information begins with a saying from David Mamet's *The Spanish Prisoner*.



That, my friends, is the core of why the 419-scams work.

Below that truth hang four dark-blue plaques on which you find the statistics of how many countries are affected by the 419-scam. This information was gathered and organized by Ultrascan, a Dutch agency with counter-419 practices, and translated into Catalanian by Jeffrey.



Xifres del frau del pagament per avançat nigerià 419

Una indústria multinacional de creixement ràpid

Estadístiques sobre el 419, de la unitat 419 d'Ultrascan: 419unit@ultrascan.nl

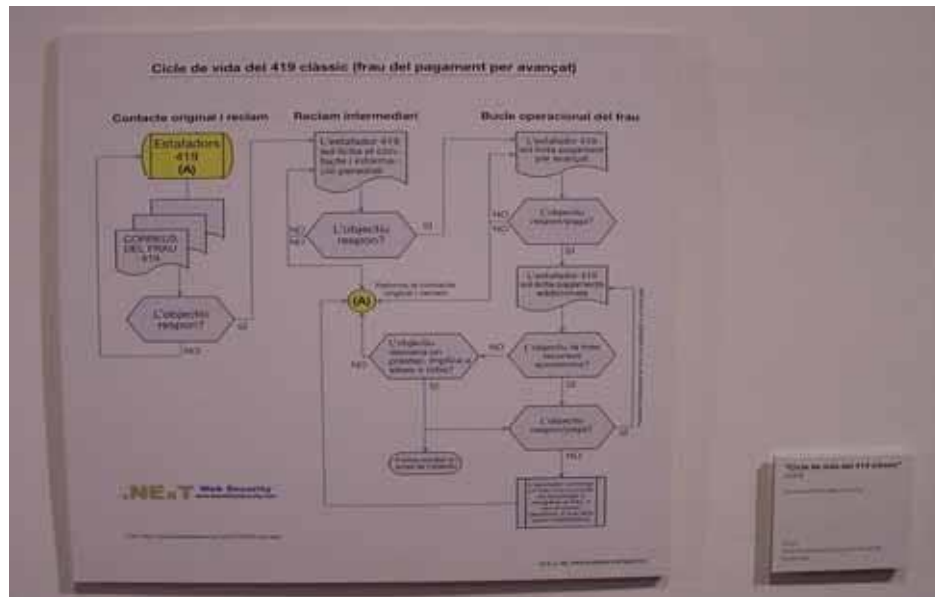
Documentació* del frau del pagament per avançat nigerià i estimacions conservadores, 2005

Informació publicada el 25 de març, 2006	Segons la nostra documentació*		Estimacions conservadores del 419 només per 2005			
			Beneficis abans de compartir amb altres xarxes de 419, en milions de \$EEUU		Beneficis després de compartir amb altres xarxes de 419, en milions de \$EEUU	
Pels països indicats	Xarxes actives de 419	Membres individuals de xarxes de 419	Total d'estafadors residents			Pèrdues per 419 de l'any 2005, empreses i ciutadans privats, en milions de \$EEUU
Bèlgica	3	72	300	51	37,2	70
				11	55,8	130

"Advanced Fee Fraud in 37 Nations," statistical analysis of the economic and human impact of the 419 scam. To read in English:

http://www.ultrascan.nl/assets/applets/Stats_419unit_AFF_March_25_2006_1b.pdf

Next comes the lifecycle of a 419-scam presented in a flowchart created by .NextWebSecurity, and translated to Catalanian by Jeffrey.



"419 Nigerian Advanced Fee Fraud Scam Lifecycle," 419-scam life cycle by .Next Web Security.

For English visit: <http://www.nextwebsecurity.com/419LifeCycle.asp>

Of course, no educational exposé on the 419-scam industry could be complete without some sample documents:



Falsified bank certificate from the Central Bank of Nigeria



Falsified passport of the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria

If you are ever wondering where those Nigerian emails are coming from, here is a photo taken in a Lagos internet café (not to say that any of those men are working the 419).

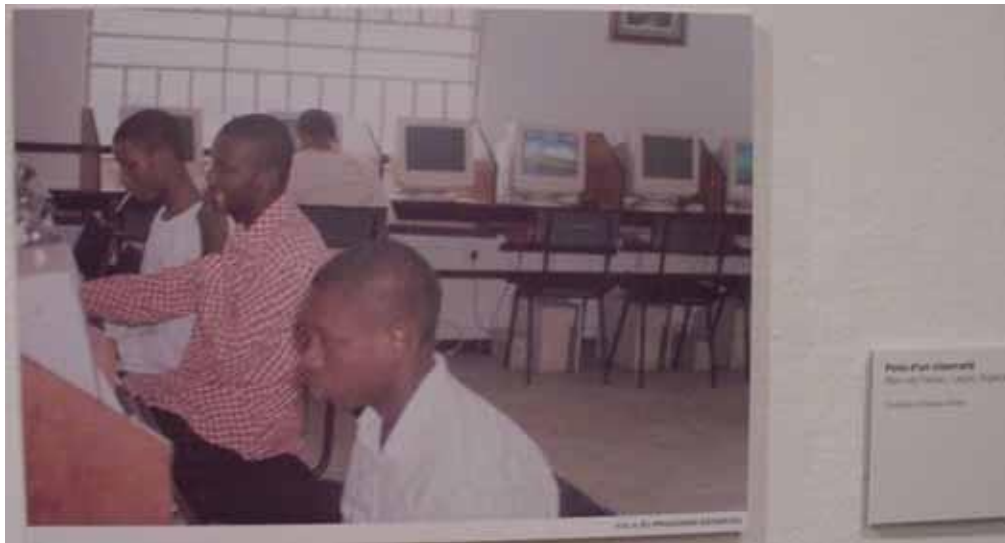
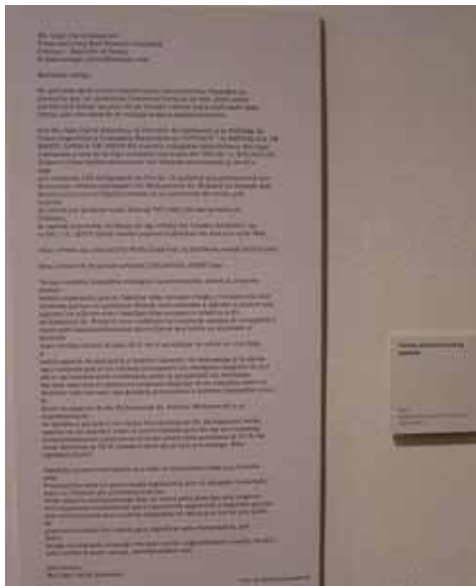


Photo of a cyber café in the Festac neighbourhood, Lagos, Nigeria (courtesy Chikezie Obieli).

English is the common language of most 419-scam letters, although here is one sent in Spanish:



Hx. Capt. David amossou
Trans Security And Finance Company
Cotonou - Republic of Benin
E-mail:excapt_david@zwallet.com

Estimado amigo,

Se que esta carta puede venirle como una sorpresa. Con la dirección por un directorio Comercial local en la web. Del perdón por tomar un poco de su tiempo valioso para expl. oferta que creo será de la ventaja suma a ambos nosotros

Soy Ex.Capt David Amossou, el Director de Operación y la Trans Seguridad y Compañía Financiera en COTONOU - la BENIN, AFRICA DE OESTE En nuestra compañía descubri

Copy of a 419 letter in Spanish, from <http://www.joewein.de/sw/419-fraude-en-espanol.htm>

As well as law enforcement and educators standing against the ongoing success of the 419-scam industry, there are the scam-baiters. Scam-baiting is when volunteers lead the scam artists down a long and winding road to nowhere, just to mess with their heads and waste their time.

There are those who provide cartoon-humor about the 419-scam! We'll take whatever avenue it takes to educate.



Javier Malonda, *Spam nigeriano*, comic strip from <http://mirror5.escomposlinux.org/tira/>, November 2003, with versions in Spanish and English (courtesy the author).

In an enclosed section of the gallery, a video depicts a dialogue between a 419er and a European target/victim. Pep Dardanya and Babou Chan are the two actors.



Hanging on the wall to the right of the video enclosure, you find an index to 419-scam terms and conditions translated into Catalanian.



Contained inside glass-covered display cases are counter-419 books, CDs, films, and accessories.

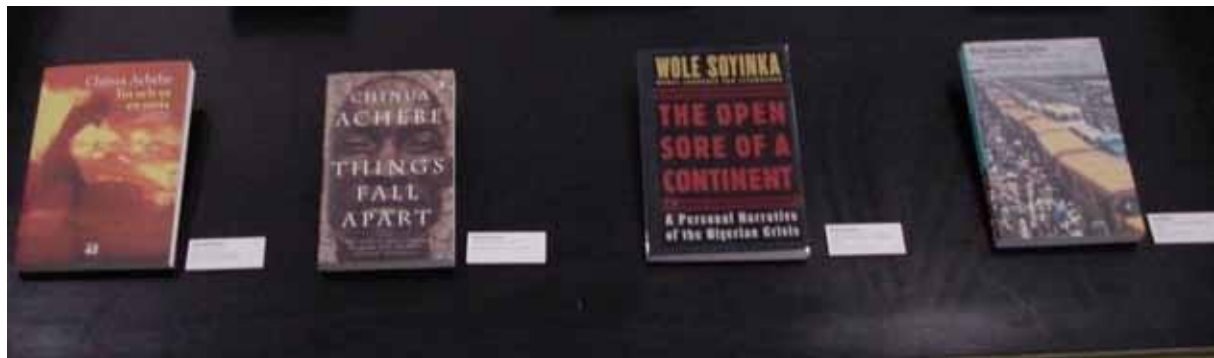


David Mamet, *The Spanish Prisoner*, USA, 1998.

David Mamet, *La Trama*, USA, 1998 (Spanish version).

Albert Sánchez Piñol, *Pallassos i monstres. La història tragicòmica de 8 dictadors africans*, Edicions La Campana: Barcelona, 2005 (3rd edition updated)

Lucia Alonso Ollacarizqueta, *Pensando en África: una excursión a los tópicos del continente*, Icaria Editorial: Barcelona, 2000.



Chinua Achebe, *Tot se'n va en orris*, Edicions 62: Barcelona, 2000;

Translation by Bernat Puigtobella.

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*, 1958; Penguin Red Classic: London, 2006.

Wole Soyinka, *The Open Sore of a Continent*, Oxford UP: London, 1996. Karl

Maier, *This House Has Fallen: Nigeria in Crisis*, Penguin: London 2001.



CDs of *Afrobeat* music from Nigeria.

Tony Allen, *NEPA*, 2003; Fela Kuti, *Expensive Shit/He Miss Road*, 2002.
CD cover of Nkem Owoh, *I Go Chop Your Dollar*, 2005. Don
Okolo, *The 419 Stalk Exchange*, USA, 1997.



Mike Berry, *Greetings in Jesus Name: The Scambaiter Letters*, Harbour Books: York, UK, 2006.
Eve Edelson, *Scamorama: Turning the Tables on Email Scammers*, The Disinformation Company: New
York, 2006.
John Biggs, *Black Hat: Misfits, Criminals and Scammers in the Internet Age*, Apress: Berkeley,
California, 2004.
Donal MacIntyre, *MacIntyre*, BBC Books: London, 1999.



Charles Tive, *419 Scam: Exploits of the Nigerian Con Man*, Chica Favours: 2002 (updated version).
Harold Baines, *The Nigerian Scam Masters: An Expose of a Modern International Gang*, Nova Biomedical
Publishers: New York, 2002.
Gary Baines, ed., *Nigerian Scams Revisited*, Novinka Books: New York, 2003.
Andrew Stevens, *"419": The Story of Advance Fee Fraud*, PublishAmerica: Frederick, Maryland.



Last, but definitely not least, is Brian Wizard's arsenal of weapons of mass education: *Nigerian 419 Scam "Game Over!"* the 8 ½" x 11" paperback; the audio version of *"Game Over!"* on a three-CD set, with the entire text as a PDF on the third CD; and his second 419-scam book, *"Don't Be Scammed – Be Informed!" An educational tour of four 419-scams.*

Brian Wizard's counter-"419"-scam items are displayed and available for sale.



You might have heard me mention how hard it is to sell books to people that don't read, or audio books to people that find it hard to listen for very long. Write and speak in a foreign language to the market and the task is even harder, although the results are the same.

However, if you can read this photo tour, you have what it takes to read or listen to any of Brian Wizard's counter-"419"-scam works of entertaining and informative art.

With everything in place, Jeffrey and I took a walk to the town square, where we imbibed on some refreshments prior to the opening of the *World Premier of the Counter-"419"-Fraud Art Show*.

That's me, Brian Wizard, holding the frothy drink.



Time passed, the doors opened, and in came the first round of guests.



No art show is successful without an opening night's after-party. This was a great time for the visiting author/artist Brian Wizard. I was able to meet and greet the people that make such art shows come together, while dining on *tapas*, an array of local dishes of various culinary delights.



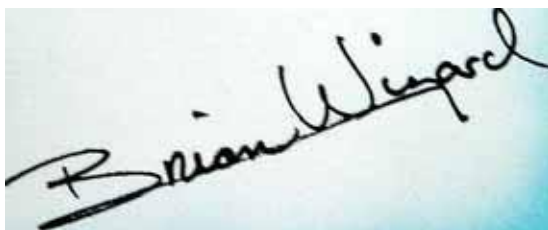
In the end, I walked away with inspiration and ambition to assist in making this exhibition a traveling show. Jeffrey already has it lined

up for a showing in downtown Barcelona next October. My opinion is that we should expand and duplicate this show with more art, speakers, performances, and music and send the multiple shows on tour throughout all of the 419 target countries.

Oh yes, this is where I mention that your efforts come into play. Write a book, do a painting, create a dance or a song relative to the 419-scam experience you had and offer it to the show. Alternatively, volunteer to help, make donations, and network with private and public art galleries, museums, universities, and clubs that might be willing to host the show.

Retarding, if not defeating, the ongoing success of the Nigerian 419scam industry is not something law enforcement can successfully do. There is never enough funding, time, or manpower. It is this writer's opinion that education of the targets before they become victims *is* the answer. We are all students and teachers when it comes to the lessons of life. Being a 419-scam victim is a lesson we should all learn how to avoid, and once learned, share.

If you want to be involved, feel free to contact Brian Wizard through <https://bwizard.art/contact-us/>

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Wizard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The background of the image is a light blue gradient.