

NOTICE:

This Material May be Protected
By Copyright Law (Title 17 U.S. Code)

2/15/2010 3:24 PM

Goldfish in blenders cause curiosity, contempt

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — The art display at the small museum in western Denmark features 10 goldfish, each swimming in its own blender. The catch: Each blender can be turned on, depending on the viewer's whim.

The display, which opened Friday, has caused outrage among

animal rights activists and drawn unusually large crowds to the Trapholt Art Museum. Two fish were blended at the opening, and police ordered the plugs pulled after a local group, the Union for the Protection of Animals, complained.

Museum director Peter Meyer said five more fish were blended on Sunday. Five surviving fish were also stolen from their blender

aquariums over the weekend, but the museum replaces the goldfish to maintain the original work of art, Meyer said.

Police Sgt. Poul Henning Christensen said an investigation was under way and museum organizers could face fines if they disregarded orders to cut off the power to the blenders.

The museum in Kolding, 125

miles west of Copenhagen, is one of many smaller art exhibitors in the Nordic country. It draws about 80,000 visitors each year. This weekend, though, it had 1,000 curious visitors — a very high off-season number, Meyer said.

"I'm glad for all the publicity because people now come in and see the whole exhibition we have at the museum," Meyer said.