

Pressinformation

Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary presents
SHOOTING BACK

A group exhibition with works by

Ai Weiwei, Kutlug Ataman, Chen Chieh-Jen, Anetta Mona Chisa and Lucia Tkáčová, Tanya Hamilton, Mathilde ter Heijne, Sanja Iveković, Brad Kahlhamer, Amar Kanwar, Kristina Leko, Walid Raad (The Atlas Group), Raqs Media Collective, Ritu Sarin and Tenzing Sonam, Sean Snyder, Catherine Sullivan, Akram Zaatari, and Želimir Žilnik

Shooting Back presents a selection of works by international artists, most drawn from the collection of Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, which share a fundamental interest in ethnographic research, folklore, rituals, and spirituality, as well as in exposing alternative histories and acts of commemoration. Following Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary's earlier project **KÜBA: Journey against the Current** and the art commissions presented during its nomadic travels through seven Eastern and Central European countries, **Shooting Back** undertakes a broader investigation of the themes of identity and tradition introduced in the earlier exhibition.

"Shooting Back" thus signifies the act of choosing to narrate one's own history, the deployment of distinctive tools and methods of representation, and the reassertion of ownership over tradition and heritage. The expression is derived from ethnographic film productions of the 1960s and ensuing investigations. As artists, filmmakers, and theoreticians have developed new languages to talk about (their) traditions, heritage, and identities, they have in turn "shot back" at the crude, stereotypical, and fictitious imagery of their respective cultures presented by mainstream media and scholarship.

Shooting Back presents 18 mainly film-, video- and photography-based works by artists from India, Tibet, Taiwan, Serbia, Croatia, China, Lebanon, and other countries, focusing on intangible heritage and its role in identity building. Intangible heritage as interpreted by **Amar Kanwar, Raqs Media Collective** and **Želimir Žilnik** is committed to forms of knowledge and culture that are non-monumental—part of the "slower" traditions of folklore, narration, popular songs, and storytelling—and that occupy the interstitial space of cultural transmission (oral history, interlocution). For example, **Tanya Hamilton** conducted research into the history of Jamaica's Mobile Cinema Units, which were used by the British for propaganda purposes but were appropriated by the Jamaicans in the quest for independence. **Mathilde ter Heijne** has collected hundreds of photographs and biographies of women from cultures throughout the world in order to reveal their remarkable stories and achievements and to question their historical anonymity. **Walid Raad** (The Atlas Group) assembled color-coded labels employed by manufacturers in different countries (including the United States, Great Britain, Saudi Arabia, Israel, France, Switzerland, and

China) to mark the cartridges and shells used by the various militias and armies fighting the Lebanese wars. The constant negotiation of the figures at play, the remix of attributes of self-definition reinstate a definition of heritage and identity, which is being actualized in acts and rituals of performance.

Kutlug Ataman, Catherine Sullivan and **Chen Chieh-Jen** are using this form to talk about themselves, their cultures or how tradition has been used to reassert political demands.

The exhibition aims to present a wide variety of cultural histories and engagements and to provoke a reconsideration of ethnographic approaches. The accompanying FILM PROGRAM—presenting works by **Luis Buñuel, Victor Burgin, Octavio Cortázar-Jiménez, Maya Deren,** and **Renée Green**—will retrace an open and fragmented history of filmmakers and artists who have been concerned with issues of documentation.

SHOOTING BACK

Press Preview Monday, June 4, 2007, 11 am

Lecture-Performance **Anthropometry of the Soul** by **Raqs Media Collective** at 7pm

Opening Tuesday, June 5, 2007, 7 pm

Performance **Uncomfortable Heritage** by **Anetta Mona Chisa & Lucia Tkáčová**

Lecture-Performance **Walid Raad** October 2007 (date to be confirmed)

Duration June 6–October 28, 2007

Location Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary
Himmelfortgasse 13, 1st floor, A-1010 Vienna

Film Program June 27, 28 and 29, 2007
July 4, 5 and 6, 2007
September 12, 13 and 14, 2007
October 3, 4 and 5, 2007

All screenings at 7 pm with exception of

Open-air screenings on June 28 and July 5, 2007, in Himmelfortgasse courtyard at 9 pm.

Exhibition and Film Program: FREE ADMISSION

Opening times Tuesday–Sunday, 12-6 pm

Please note our opening times in July and August:

Tuesday– Friday, 12-6 pm; Saturday and Sunday closed

Information

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