



Yael Bartana. Amateur Anthropologist

September 24 – November 26, 2006

The exhibition *Amateur Anthropologist*, with a selection of video works and installations, provides comprehensive insight into the work of the Israeli Yael Bartana, throwing light on the specific working practice of an artist who addresses the complex relationship between the individual and society.

Bartana adopts the role of aloof, critical observer of her home country in her quest for more profound meanings and links between everyday occurrences and societal conventions. She expresses her interest in the mechanisms of a country that prescribes an ideology and in the individual who applies it. In impressive images, Bartana's video works question the constitution of Israel's national and cultural identity especially as reflected in its rituals and representation. For example, in the video work ***Trembling Time*** (2001), Bartana takes the minute's silence on the national day of commemoration for fallen Israeli soldiers as the point of departure for examining the effects of collective commemoration and military celebrations on the thinking of the individual, or, in ***Kings of the Hill*** (2003), draws attention to the social and political implications of the aggressive motor sport pursued on the hilly coast in the vicinity of Tel Aviv – a popular pastime among upper middle class Israeli men.

Yael Bartana calls attention to that which underlies what we see, what is hidden in images and actions, taking the perspective of an "amateur anthropologist." The formulation, which she has borrowed from the Canadian writer Eva Hoffman, describes the reflective method by which the artist isolates and documents, or, in more recent works, stages stereotyped actions, rituals, or elements of everyday life with the aid of the camera, and "gets to the bottom" of them by alienating the material. Bartana's interrogation of Israeli reality finds no direct answers. It reveals inherent ambiguities and possible interpretations, so that her observations and penetration of societal structures and their manifestations are transferable to other contexts.

In addition to her recent video installation ***Wild Seeds*** (2005) that got a lot of attention at the Istanbul Biennial (2005), the earlier works ***You Could Be Lucky*** (2004), ***When Adar Enters*** (2003), ***Ad De'lo Yoda*** (2003) and ***Profile*** (2000) will be shown at the Kunsthalles Fridericianum.

Yael Bartana (*1970) lives and works in Amsterdam and Tel Aviv.

Single exhibitions: Kunstverein Hamburg, 2006; Stedelijk van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven 2006; Annet Gelink Galerie, Amsterdam 2005; P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York 2003.

Group shows: 9. Istanbul Biennial, 2005; Kunstmuseum Bonn, 2005; *Time Zones: recent film and video*, Tate Modern, London 2004; *Surfacing*, Ludwig Museum Budapest, 2004; Liverpool Biennial, 2004; *Territories*, Witte de With, Rotterdam 2003; Manifesta 4, Frankfurt/M. 2002.

Yael Bartana. Amateur Anthropologist is the fourth exhibition in the collective project of the curatorial workshop programme that will stage the artistic programme of the Kunsthalle Fridericianum until November 2006. In this series, which dovetails in theme and time, four members of the curatorial workshop and the artistic director René Block will be providing insight into their current work in independent exhibitions. The exhibitions – under the collective title *5 Days to the End of Art* – will follow individual approaches and mirror the varying perspectives, interests, and procedures of a young generation of curators.

The exhibition is curated by Birgit Eusterschulte (*1972). After her studies she worked at Kunsthalle Wien (Vienna) and since 2003 she is a member of the curatorial workshop programme where she lately worked for the exhibition projects *Collective Creativity* (2005) and *Self-Timer* (2006).

Together with the exhibition *Yael Bartana. Amateur Anthropologist* the parallel project of René Block continues. This project under the title **René's Side-Show** not only introduces the farewell exhibition *Fremd bin ich eingezogen* by the artistic director with special implications but also accompanies the work of the young curators with a personal statement. From September 24 until October 18, the film *Seven Exercises* by Russian artist Olga Chernysheva (*1962) is presented in this space. *René's Side-Show* will end with the work *Complaints Choir* by the Finish-German artist couple Tellervo Kalleinen and Oliver Kochta Kalleinen that can be seen there until November 11.

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Opening Hours

Wednesday – Sunday and on Holidays 11 am – 6 pm

Special opening hours from November 15 – 26, 2006: 6 pm – 11 pm

Admission

4 Euro / reduced 2,50 Euro

Wednesday reduced 2,50 Euro (exhibition incl. Jour Fixe)



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The exhibition is funded by: