

SHAKE

Villa Arson in Nice and the O.K Centrum für Gegenwartskunst in Linz are putting on a joint exhibit that confronts current political developments with respect to questions of nationality and identity from 28 may to 25 july 2004 at OK Centrum (Linz) and from 4 july to 10 october 2004 in Villa Arson (Nice).

Opening on sunday 4 july from 11 am

Are we Austrians? French? Linzer? Niçoise? Or merely residents in a certain city district, somewhere, in a globally networked world?

Are thinking as nations and operating as states up-to-date political concepts? The exhibition project Shake questions historically developed notions of state and national identity against the background of the new political order of the European landscape and the global impact of economic development. Still today, even in the age of growing trans-national networks and dependencies, our own identity and the identity of the group, the community, in which we live, are linked, first of all, with the concept of nation and state.

The starting point for the exhibition is a playful mapping project by Juan Esteban Sandoval, who was commissioned by both art institutions to unite the regions around Nice and Linz and both cities themselves into a territory, a regional city-state.

On this shared plateau, the invited artists pursue different national aspects of state affairs. Some artists address the fictive connection to work site-specifically (Stalker, Luca Vitone). Others investigate what it means to belong to a nation, which borders are set for whom (Sandra Kogut, Jota Castro) and which impact national symbols such as flags or anthems develop (Saädane Affif, Stéphane Bérard, Antonio Gallego). Some artists grapple with the question of citizenship, and how and in which form foreigners are perceived in one's own country and which attributions, exclusions and clichés this entails (Kader Attia, Lisl Ponger, Julian Rosefeldt, Jens Haaning, Jun Yang). They show that language skills are a crucial criterion for whether one belongs or not (Candice Breitz). Artists develop alternatives (Niek van der Steeg, Ross Sinclair), investigate the historical dimension (Dennis Adams, Hoy Cheong Wong, Tim Sharp) and the social context (Adel Abdessemed, Dorit Margreiter), argue for an Ethnic International (Ben Vautier) or found new states themselves (State of Sabotage / Robert Jelinek).

The framework for the exhibition is a network of eight European art institutions : Casino Luxembourg – Forum d'art contemporain (L) · Centrul International pentru Arta Contemporana & Muzeul National de Arta Contemporana, Bucarest & Fundatia ArtStudio, Cluj (RO) · Centrum Sztuki Współczesnej Łaznia, Gdansk (PL) · Galéria Jána Koniarka, Trnava (SK) · migros museum für gegenwartskunst, Zurich (CH) & Halle für Kunst, Lüneburg (D) · O.K Centrum für Gegenwartskunst, Linz (A) · Villa Arson Centre National d'art contemporain, Nice (F). This project is supported by the Culture 2000 program of EU.

Curators: Laurence Gateau, Genoveva Rückert
Concept defined with Stella Rollig and Martin Sturm

Artists:

Adel Abdessemed
Dennis Adams
Saädane Affif
Kader Attia
Stéphane Berard
Candice Breitz
Jota Castro
Antonio Gallego
Jens Haaning
Sandra Kogut
Robert Jelinek / State of Sabotage
Dorit Margreiter
Lisl Ponger
Julian Rosefeldt
Juan Esteban Sandoval
Tim Sharp
Ross Sinclair
Stalker
Niek Van De Steeg
Ben Vautier
Luca Vitone
Hoy Cheong Wong
Jun Yang

The Villa Arson receives support from the Délégation aux arts plastiques, the Drac Paca (ministère de la Culture et de la Communication), the Conseil général des Alpes-Maritimes, the Conseil régional Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and the city of Nice.

SHAKE NIGHT 9 juillet 2004 www.re-location.org

Jean-Claude Chedal, general director
Laurence Gateau, director of the National Contemporary Art Center and exhibition curator
Maxime Matray, publications attaché
Patrick Aubouin, manager
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Anne Ginesy, secretary
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04/07 – 10/10/2004
SHAKE

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opening hours : 2 pm to 7 pm, closed on tuesdays
Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication