

SEFER MEMİŞOĞLU

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Sefer Memisoglu born Istanbul, Turkey, 1977
Lives and works in Istanbul, Amsterdam
Film, video, sound, photograph, painting, drawing

Education
Graduate from Marmara University, Istanbul
Fine Arts Academy Painting Department

Master degree on "Postmodern Aesthetic"
from Marmara University ISTANBUL
Fine Arts Academy

Residencies
2007-2009
Rijksakademie van beeldende kunsten/
Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

Awards
2007
Crystal Apple 'Success Director Award', Istanbul

2001
21th Contemporary Artist Exhibitions, Success Award,
Istanbul

Collections
Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna, Austria

Selected group exhibitions

2008
26 – 30 November
'Openstudio', Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam

2008
7 – 23 November
'Untitled 2003'
'Truths & Mirages', Shipka 6, Sofia

2008
4 November
'Rendering Rome 2008'
'Moment of Agency', Kunsthalle Basel, Switzerland

2008
16 – 19 October
'Frieze Art Fair' London

2008
19 June - 17 July
'Dis – Ease', Bank Gallery, Durban, South Africa

2008
21 May – 13 June
'Untitled 2005'
'Candid Stories' Insa Art Space of the Arts Council Korea, Seoul

2008
March
'The Country, Not the Bird' Art In General, Newyork

2007
27 – 30 November
'Openstudio', Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam

2007
29 November
'Untitled 2005'
'Hier sein Dort sein Auswärts' Institut für Auslands -Galerie,
Berlin, Stuttgart, Germany

2006
Galerist, Istanbul, TR, 'Air Pocket' Istanbul, Turkey

2006
15 December - 21 January
'Untitled 2005'
'Home and Way' Maribor Art Gallery, Maribor, Slovenia

2006
November
'Untitled 2005',
'Eurohope 1153' Villa Manin Centro d'arte Contemporanea,
Venice, Italy

2006
25 January - 5 February
'Untitled 2005'
34th International Film Festival Rotterdam
Rotterdam, Holland

2006
October 15 (2005) - January 8
'Untitled 2005' represented by TBA21
"Guardami: Percezione del Video/Look at Me: Video Perceptions,
Palazzo delle Papesse Centro Arte Contemporanea,
Siena, Italy (Together with William Kentridge, Stan Douglas,
Gillian Wearing, Bill Viola, Pipilotti Rist, Mona Hatoum,
Bruce Nauman)

2005
'Untitled 2005'
9th International Istanbul Biennial 'freekick exhibition'
Istanbul

2004
'Untitled 2002'
'Karsilastirmalar' Apartment Project Art Gallery
Istanbul, Turkey

2003
'Untitled 2003'
'I am too sad to kill you'
Proje 4L Museum of Contemporary Art Istanbul, Turkey

2002
'Untitled 2001'
'Under the beach: Pavement' Proje 4L Museum of Contemporary Art,
Istanbul, Turkey

2001
'Untitled 2001'
'In image we trust' 21th Contemporary Artist Exhibitions'
AKM Art Gallery Istanbul, Turkey

1999
'Untitled 1999'
'Glance to Nature' T.C. Ziraatbank Gallery Istanbul, Turkey

1995
'Drawing Exhibitions Ayse Ercüment Kalmuk Foundation Gallery
Istanbul, Turkey

Beeldende kunst Deelnemers Open Ateliers wacht gouden toekomst in de kunst

Steeds eerder exposities en biënnales

Dit weekend stelt de Rijksakademie de ateliers van zijn 'residents' open. Het niveau is hoog; vooral het sterke aandeel van Aziatische kunstenaars is opvallend.

Door onze redacteur

SANDRA SMALLENBURG

AMSTERDAM, 27 NOV. De carrière van de Turkse kunstenaar Ahmet Ögüt verloopt voorspoedig – dat zie je direct wanneer je zijn atelier op de Rijksakademie in Amsterdam binnenloopt. Aan de muur hangt een affiche van zijn laatste solotentoonstelling in de Kunsthalle Basel. Ernaast getuigen foto's van zijn succes op de Biënnale van Berlijn, eerder dit jaar, waar hij een museumzaal volstortte met asfalt. En op de koffietafel ligt, tussen toonaangevende kunstbladen als Kunstforum en Art in America, de catalogus van de Thessaloniki Biënnale waar hij vorig jaar ook aan deelnam.

De 27-jarige Ögüt weet, kortom, al aardig zijn weg te vinden in het internationale kunstcircuit. En hij is niet de enige. Tussen de vijftig kunstenaars die het komend weekeinde hun studio's openstellen tijdens de jaarlijkse Open Ateliers, zitten veel bekend klinkende namen. Zo heeft fotograaf Erik van der Weijde op dit moment ook een tentoonstelling lopen in Foam, en toonde het duo Persijn Broersen & Margit Lukács hun werk deze zomer nog in het Stedelijk Museum. Je kunt je afvragen of zij het nog wel nodig hebben, zo'n onderzoeksplek aan de Rijksakademie.

Het succes komt steeds vroeger, merkt ook Martijntje Hallmann, hoofd van de afdeling Ateliers van de Rijksakademie. Zij ziet hoe sommige 'residents' soms maanden achtereen de wereld over vliegen, van expositie naar biënnale, en nauwelijks tijd hebben om in hun atelier te werken. „Galeriehouders happen steeds sneller toe", vertelt ze. „We hebben net bekendgemaakt wie de nieuwe residents in 2009 zullen zijn. Die kunstenaars worden direct door de kunstwereld benaderd."

Dwalend door het labyrinthische ateliercomplex is het niet moeilijk om de gouden toekomsten van de kunstenaars te voorspellen. Vtshois Mwilambwe Bondo uit Congo bijvoorbeeld, maakt funky schilderijen met een maatschappijkritische ondertoon, die het ongetwijfeld goed zullen doen in het biënnalecircuit. Uit glossy tijdschriften knipt Mwilambwe Bondo ogen en neuzen van beroemdheden, die hij vervolgens tot swingende lijnen aaneensmeedt. Het resultaat heeft wel wat weg van Chris Ofili's werk, maar dan minder provocerend. „Die zien we binnenkort terug op de Documenta", merkt een bezoeker terecht op.

Ook van de Amerikaan Mark Boulos zullen we nog veel horen.

Hij heeft zijn atelier verduisterd voor de vertoning van *All That is Solid Melts into Air*, een filmisch tweeluik dat het afgelopen jaar al een succesvolle tournee maakte langs Art Basel, de Sydney Biennale en het Stedelijk Museum. Op twee tegenoverliggende wanden worden beelden geprojecteerd die Boulos filmde in de Niger Delta en de Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Links

haren vliegen om de olie. En hij staat als kijker in de vuurlinie. Opvallend is dit jaar het sterke aandeel van Aziatische kunstenaars. De Japanse Rumiko Hagimura maakte een installatie die zo subtiel is dat zij eerst niet eens opvalt. Op de deur van haar atelier brandt een gloeilamp die een scherpe schaduw op de vloer werpt. Verder is de ruimte leeg en wit. Pas later merk je op dat die schaduw met potlood getekend is en doorloopt over het plafond, de muren en zelfs de tl-buizen. Het is een verbluffend eenvoudig kunstwerk, waar vast uren van monnikenwerk in zijn gaan zitten.

Het lijkt wel of de Open Ateliers

dit jaar ingetogen zijn dan anders. Er zijn weinig spektakelstukken. De meeste beelden – schilderijen, video's, sculpturen – zijn minimalistisch, sober, dromerig. Zo keek Sefer Memisoglu (Turkije) een dag lang uit het raam van zijn atelier en filmde hoe de schaduw over de bakstenen muur gleed. En richtte Go Eun Im (Korea) een filmprojector op een aquarium met goudvissen, met rustgevend kabbelende beelden als resultaat.

Rijksakademie Open 2008. Sarphatistraat 470, Amsterdam. 29 en 30 nov. Inl: rijksakademie.nl

Bekijk meer foto's van de Open Ateliers op nrc.nl/kunst

vandaan komt. Ingelijst aan de muur hangt daar een fascinerend briefje aan haar buren. „Ik heb berekend dat jullie herrie 80% van mijn huis inneemt", schrijft Van Sonsbeeck daarin. „Ik verzoek jullie daarom vriendelijk om een evenredig deel van de huur te betalen." Jammer, dat het antwoord van de herriemakers er niet naast hangt.

participants

Ayreen Anastas (IL) and Rene Gabri (IR)

Collaborative works and projects by Ayreen and Rene have emerged through their extensive work together at 16Beaver. Their recent text, audio, web, and video works have focused on the evolving legal and discursive shifts around different notions of security and the subsequent effects on everyday life. Their work comprises over 40 videos, which employ a range of genres and open up a rich map of questions linking intimate concerns and experiences with pressing social and political problems.

Yael Bartana (IL)

All of Bartana's works are characterized through its multi layered imagery and inimitable practice of time editing while dealing with converting and transforming Israeli social congregations. The criticism of Bartana on Israeli society should be recognized as a portrait of a disappointed lover to its predicate, especially in recent works, in which sobriety is to be found in the observation of Israeli reality.

Maïder Fortuné (FR)

lives and works in France. Her photography, video and graphic work concentrate on fiction revealed through her directing focus that cuts down the scenes to their bare essentials in which the aesthetic dimension is omni-present. The body takes the place of the story, which oscillates between tale and mystery.

Amar Kanwar (IN)

Emerging from the Indian sub continent, Amar Kanwar's films are complex, contemporary narratives that connect intimate personal spheres of existence to larger social political processes. The films link legends and ritual objects to new symbols and public events, which trigger emotional and intellectual disturbances in the viewer. Finding a contextual relationship with diverse audiences, Kanwar's work maps a journey of exploration revealing our relationship with the politics of power, violence, ecology, sexuality and justice.

Sefer Memisoglu (TR)

Memisoglu's art practice is received as an attitude of personal experience that has been shaped through working with various media, which are interrelated with each other. The 'time' and process of his production is defined by the means of expression and relational imagery at stake. The imagination functions as a tool of speech act that has been influenced by that very practice of production. Hence, the image that gets embodied as an object, describes a knowledge-object that desires to communicate through information sourcing from complex concepts.

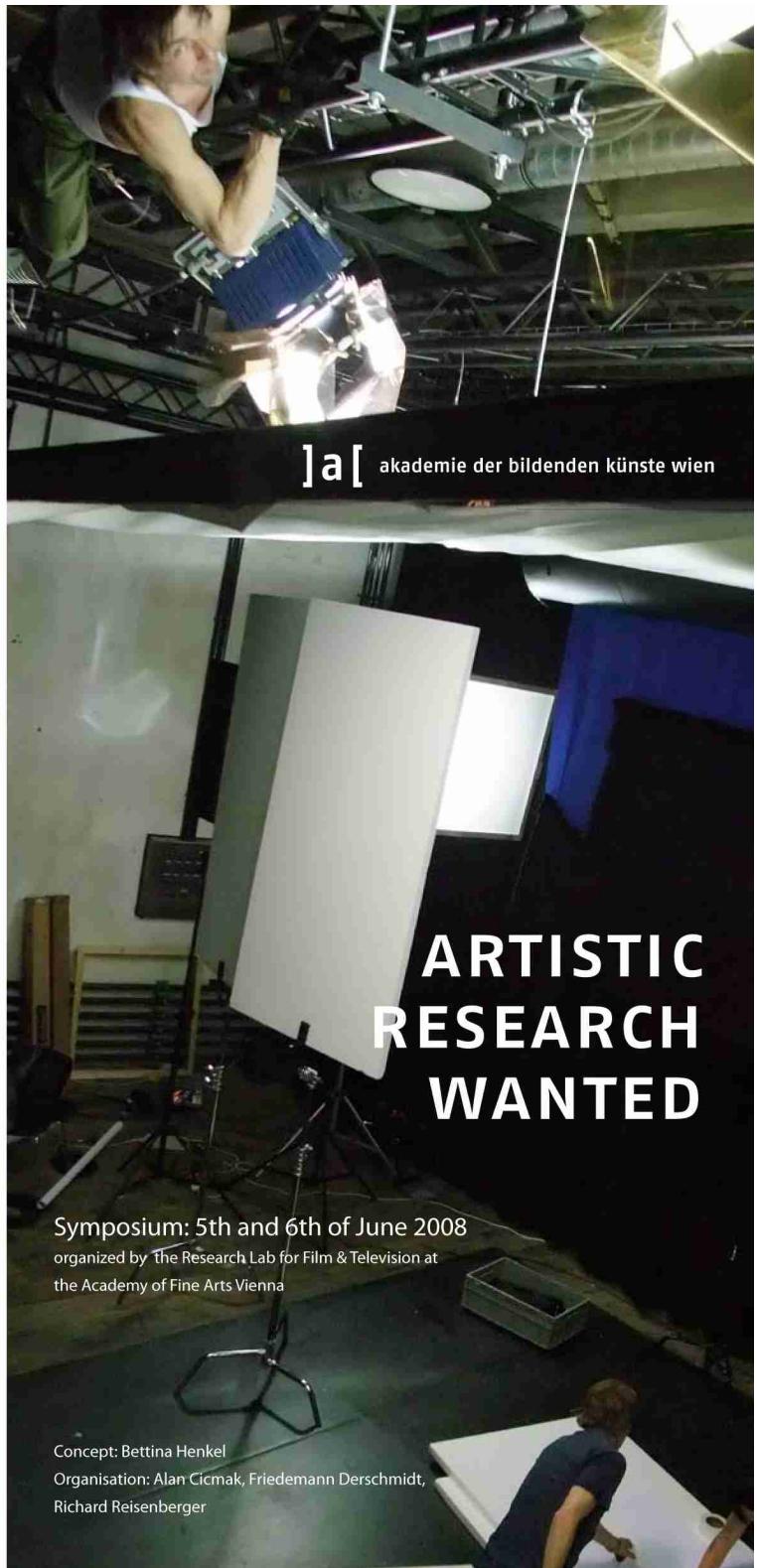
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Artistic Research Wanted

The Research Lab for Film & Television at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna is mainly devoted to Artistic Research with close alliance to research-connected education. The Academy therefore installed a newly and technically well equipped High-Tech-Video Studio with the potential to produce in High Definition (HDCAM, HDV and forthcoming formats). It is endowed with a large number of video facilities, with an abounding space on offer and good conditions for postproduction.

For fathoming and advancing the artistic research – interlocked with theory and practice in the field of the new media – on an ultimate artistic and technical level, the Academy and the Research Lab assign annually one project including full access to all technical resources of the media lab. Therefore the concept was developed to invite six curators, who were chosen by the advisory board of the Research Lab, to recommend an artist or an artist group for this project. The recommended persons present their work and propose a project on June, 5th to 6th in the Academy. One of the presented projects will be chosen by the advisory board to be realized in the context of the Research Lab.

„Artistic Research - Example Given # 1“

This is a series of lecture-presentations of artistic research projects. Accompanying the three level research structure of distinguished, advanced and junior researchers and research projects, we set up a public monitoring organized by the Research Lab for Film & Television. All projects have a system of nomination through the advisory board of the Research Lab, or a delegation system, like the described curator nominations. For the junior researchers students of the Academy of Fine Arts will be nominated by professors. Out of these the external member of the advisory board chose seven students as junior researchers. They will present their work the same way like the advanced researchers.

For the first distinguished artistic research project Mark Lewis, a Canadian London based artist was chosen by the advisory board. His project and the artistic research progress dealing with rear-projection in HDCAM video format will be presented. A short view how research-connected education is practised in this case will be shown.

Timetable

Artistic Research Wanted

Thursday June 5th, 08

10:30 h Welcoming / Introduction:
Stephan Schmidt-Wulffen (Rector)
Andreas Spiegl (Vice-Rector for Teaching and Research)
Bettina Henkel (Head of the Research Lab for Film & Television)

Presentations

11:30 h Maïder Fortuné
12:30 h Sefer Memisoglu

14:00 h Lunch break

15:30 h Yael Bartana

17:00 h „Artistic Research - Example Given # 1“
Distinguished Research Project
Rear Projection (work title) by Mark Lewis
Bettina Henkel, Mark Lewis, Ludwig Löckinger (DoP)

Friday June 6th, 08

10:00 h Amar Kanwar / live presentation online
11:30 h Ayreen Anastas and Rene Gabri

Location:

Atellerhaus, Akademie der bildenden Künste Wien
A1060 - Vienna; Lehargasse 6-8

“For my project in Vienna I will be staging a number of narrative scenes in the high definition studio in front of rear projected video images shot on location in Vienna. The locations include a night scene in the park next to the Prater (eg the ‘Boxing Machine’ and the ‘Running Path’) and the Prospekt Hof at the Semper Depot. The finished work(s) will combine these location images with the staged scenes using a method reminiscent of the traditional Hollywood film technology of Rear Projection.”

Mark Lewis

PALAZZO DELLE PAPESSE – Exhibitions

<http://www.papesse.org/>

Palazzo delle Papesse – Centro Arte Contemporanea

EXHIBITIONS ACTIVITIES INFO NEWS CATALOGUES RADIO PAPESSE

2005 OCTOBER 15 – 2006 JANUARY 06

GROUP SHOW
PALAZZO DELLE PAPESSE

CATALOGUE PRESS ROOM OPENING

Guardami. Percezione del video

Wall projections or multiple projections, video sculptures, video installations, and interactive works will all help to weave a varied and surprising journey of discovery. The observer's point of view will need to be adapted – as occasion requires – according to the 'demands' and visual conventions dictated by the works which have been selected, by the way they have been displayed, or by the technology which animates their spirit, enabling the act of revelation to take place. The attention of the visitor (who is forced to adopt continual changes of posture, and to vary their point of observation) will thereby be kept constantly on the alert. The general conditions of the surrounding space (complete darkness, partial lighting, empty spaces, the presence or absence of objects or equipment), as well as the diversity of the supports and of the modus operandi of the works, will help to make this 'journey' in art in motion a sensory experience that is full of ever new and different stimuli. Monitors of all sizes, videowalls, wall projections or projections on the most unusual forms of support are just some of the ways in which visitors will be invited to observe the art work.

Each room, apart from a few rare instances, will accommodate a single work, and the shift from one area to another will be determined by the rhythm suggested by the formal differences of the works on display: colour or black/white, sound or silence, narrative or abstract, animated or interactive.

ARTISTS

Bianco-Valente, Candice Breitz, Jessica Bronson, Cardiff & Bures Miller, David Cotterrell, Stan Douglas, Mona Hatoum, Gary Hill, Šejla Kamerić, William Kentridge, Mark Leckey, Zilla Leutenegger, Marzia Migliora & Elisa Sighicelli, Sefer Memişoglu, Bruce Nauman, Niamh O'Malley, Tony Oursler, Giovanni Ozzola, Nam June Paik, Paulette Phillips, Pipilotti Rist, Mika Rottenberg, Studio Azzurro, Diana Thater, Bill Viola, Gillian Wearing

more...

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CATALOGUE Guardami. Percezione del video

Testi in catalogo di
Francesco Bernardelli, Lorenzo Fusi,
Pietro Montani
N° pagine: 200
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Prezzo: € 25.00
Altre inf.: fotografie a colori, carta
patinata, legatura in brossura,
copertina cartonata

[Aggiungi al carrello](#)



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Guardami.Percezione del video, Brief diary of a project.

I don't know if one can talk in terms of "genius" for all the artists involved in Look at me. Perceptions of video (Guardami. Percezione del video). What is certain is that many of them help to turn on that "inner light" within us which Woolf mentions in the quote above, to "make visible" that which is latent, not yet fully expressed, and (in a certain sense) that which is invisible. The aim of this exhibition is to outline the various kinds of sensory stimulation which artists are acquainting us with, and have been doing so, by means of the use of moving images, whether these are shot on video or film.

We have chosen to avoid turning images into a spectacle, which, of course, represents one of the possible approaches; but we did not intend to go down the road of purely seeking a 'shock effect'. On the contrary, we feel that a certain apparently low-key tone, a far cry from large-scale productions and mega-investments, is more suited to describing the exhibition clearly. The work of many other artists could have been included (one thinks of names such as Doug Aitken and Kutlug Ataman, or Douglas Gordon or Paul Pfeiffer, to mention but a few), but the available timescale and space did not allow such a large-scale operation. So we decided to stick to the work of some of the pioneers of the video-art to introduce the art of the new generations, in a bid for dialogue and alternation, and for the sake of comparison. Personally, I think the earliest videotapes by Bruce Nauman are still the best of their kind, and I am pleased to be able to re-stage two fundamental works, Bouncing in the Corner No. 1 and Walk in Contrapposto (both dated 1968). Alongside Nauman it will be possible to see Sacha and Mum, a dense ..and powerful black-and-white video made by Gillian Wearing in 1997. The hugs and caresses which soon fade into a conflict between a mother and her daughter, in a loop which regresses, instead of progressing, are confusing to the observer. Does love turn into hatred, or vice versa? The same question seems to be posed by the young artist Sefer Memisoglu lu, who depicts the borderline between innocence and cruelty in a video in which the concept of duration and time (as in the case of Nauman and Wearing) is thrown open, albeit by means of a more linear narration.

www.papesse.org

Interview with Sefer Memisoglu to Juliet Art Magazine;
Number 131 February 2007

Emanuela Pezzetta

Emanuela Pezzetta: What impact had your experience as graphic illustrator on your work and career as artist? How would you describe the relationship which occurs between your work and the Turkish cultural ideas of beauty?

Sefer Memisoglu: As a matter of fact, I would say the opposite. The impact of my career as an artist on my practice as a graphic illustrator is greater, I think. Interaction and inspiration run both ways. On the other hand I am making ads for TV. Experiencing the contemporary techniques of mass communication within a pragmatic context allows me to refer to the grammar of that context in my art projects. I think this practical dialectics has a determining impact on my present and future language of expression. When I'm saying dialectics, I want to distinguish the existential difference of mass communications from the language of art. On the one hand you're the unredeemable accomplice, but on the other hand your restless soul can be in a place of confessing.

I think Turkish culture is an internalized motif that's embedded in my work. Istanbul has a multi-layered structure that's always in motion. Although it's not as visible, the same holds true for the rest of Turkey as well. In this geography history stands over many layers of history. I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say that the memory of space is an abyss here. When we say Turkish culture, we should understand this huge complex in its contemporary state. At the crux of my work lies the impossibility of rendering reality with a visual expression form. I feel this corresponds to the iconoclasm and aniconism in both Byzantine and Islamic past where representation of something as an expression of reality is considered an impossibility. Because the terror of reality is tamed within the system of representation; and ideologically instrumentalized as it is reduced to be subject to the power of those who rule.

E.P: In your video production you often play with time: sometimes you make fluid movement by slowing down, sometimes you increment them, all in the same video. What do you want to transmit to your spectator? What is the spectator expected to feel by this manipulation of time in your works?

S.M: I think the historical narrative, a visual instance of memory, is deformed when I simulate it through a personal experience of mine. A form that has passed the test of time corresponds to an organic/vital, mental symptom that seeks a body for itself, becomes an object in my experience of reality. I explore the mystery that triggers this relationship, and try to see it. When I consider the video as a plane where I try to create this sensation, I feel the need to bend and twist time. For instance when we make time slower, let aside the dramatic effect, we can talk about the enlargement of our perception of time. When we manipulate the reality of motion, we can see the 25 frames we would see in 3-4 seconds instead of the usual one second. Under the hypnotic impact of this, the mode of perception turns to subjectivity. When we accelerate time the opposite takes place. The dramatic impact is turned into absurdity. I think by constructing these two manipulations, I wanted to keep alive the fluid reality of time perception and the workings of time manipulations that construct while deconstructing.

E.P: Video art is strictly connected with reality. Your works are visionary; how does reality come into your videos? What is the rule of reality in your works?

S.M: Video art -in its relationship with reality- had a tendency to research the effects of the world of imagery that surrounds reality on society through mass communication. At the same time it aimed to uncover how the world of images worked as a manipulative tool. As an expression of the echoes of time in the emotional psyche of the modern individual, it re-affected the individual, created a place, enlarged the domain of communication.

The concept of reality is an existential problem that needs to be reevaluated all the time in my work as an artist. How can we set apart the mental from the real? How we see the life in which we exist, apart from the mental framework that's structured or at least outlined by the cultural context into which we were

thrown at the time of our birth? I see the two as inseparable whole. If we talk about this whole as a spatial being, this space is the scattered landscape of the inexpressible, the unspeakable; thus inevitably it is the body of the irrational. So the sparkles that are reflected from this space cut through the mist of reality. I see these sparkles as symptoms.

These symptoms carry the knowledge of what they program and how; their existence before coming into being, their organization, their origin... I edit the material thus accumulated and try to stage it in a cinematographic setting.

If we could relay what the mind's eye sees without the interference of any medium, that exists as a phenomenon of being its own expression I think this would have been the documentary of something... I would not need an imaginary staging. To sum up, as long as the rules of reality change, I shouldn't be searching for a rule of reality. My next expression can be montaged to reality in a totally different aesthetic organized by reality.

E.P: Which are the artists you refer to?

S.M: I have a wide and multi-faceted cultural sphere that feeds me: Cinema, music, painting and plastic arts. It is difficult to pinpoint an artist that I refer to... I think the references are scattered and rather implicit. But I can say that I'm influenced by Francis Bacon and Jeff Wall had been very instructive... I like the works of William Kentridge, Bülent Sangar, Kutlug Ataman, Huseyin Caglayan, Anri Sala, Aydan Murtezaoglu, Enrique Martí, Francis Alis and Robert Gober.

E.P: In video production the optical aspect is basic, but a video involves not only the optical, but the mind of the viewer too. Besides the optical aspects, what do you want the viewer's mind to perceive?

S.M: Adorno wrote on text and linguistics. What I understand from his writing is that every word -which is the basic unit of writing- should be memorable throughout the text; and each time it reoccurs it should direct the act of writing by entailing the previous context in which it was situated before. It should work the same way for the reader. I see an insistence on rationality here.

I think the viewer should let an image that she/he perceives take her/him to wherever that image is leading her/him, just like the perception of music is working. After experiencing it (which is also physiological) she/he can analyze what happened. First and foremost the viewer should be able to enter a dialog with the work she/he experienced. Adorno's understanding of textuality can be aimed for the period of mentalization during and after the perception of the work that the viewer entered a reaction with. This is also the only condition that makes a work fit for survival. That is the encounter of a viewer's experiential accumulation and a work should indeed be a phenomenon.

E.P: Bill Viola in 1998, said to Virginia Rutledge: "Actually, technologically speaking, I don't think video is going to exist for too much longer. The technology is changing so rapidly that it simply won't be around in 20 years. Video will then be thought flourished briefly during the late 20th century and early 21st". Thinking about the 20 years that B. Viola was talking about, 10 years are almost gone. What do you think about Viola's statement?

S.M: I also think that many things are changing rapidly, technologically-speaking. And it is quite hard to foresee the impact of these changes. Bill Viola's remark is true when we think about the context in which it is said. Video art tried everything in this twenty-year period. During this period it offered many innovations and kept the interest of viewers alive... But there was an inflation of videos and now many people get a feeling of saturation when they see a video. But still exciting works are being done. Technically, what the video corresponds to in our day is worth discussing. Video will have a role to play in the evolution of art forms. Its predecessors have been theatre, cinema, modern dance and other performance arts some of which are hybrids. Today these forms are more intertwined than ever. Technical possibilities inevitably lend themselves to new forms of expression. On the other hand, since the beginning of the twentieth century, many have spoken of the end of painting and the lack of necessity of its existence. But today, painting has incomparable expressive powers and a form of presentation. This still works and it is demanded. The same holds true for video art. People still write, read poems like many centuries before; the acts of creating and recreating different forms of art do not change; what changes is their content, meaning and the mode of production.

E.P: In "Untitled" (2005), children are playing into the tower of Galata and a fly is beheaded. It seems that through this children's play you are showing an ancient human behaviour (the cruelty) that continually emerges during human history. Is it so?

S.M: At first sight, you can see a relationship between the children and the flies. But this can tell you more than a similarity. What inspired 'Untitled' (2005) is the impudent game of fighting the children were staging next to the Galata Tower. Galata Tower is a Genoese construction from the Byzantine period. Since then, it existed as a phallic object that has an enviable panoptical gaze all over the city. Whereas it was built by the Genoese to represent their power vis-à-vis the Byzantine emperors; it was a dungeon that housed the rarer prisoners at night and for a time an artillery depot during the Ottoman era; and finally after the foundation of the Turkish Republic it became a touristic object where belly dancers dance each night. I have observed that the fighting of the children became more exaggerated when the tourists were around the tower. It was a moment of appearing on stage for them. The local's reprimanding gazes and frowning were lost when the children felt the curious gaze on their faces the show became more shameless, which sometimes included a vulgar eroticism. In this situation, I could mark them as deformations. The gaze that was cast from their own cultural environment imprinted in their consciousness that they are going to be useless up-to-no-good people. When they encountered the foreign gaze, which have not yet created a past-present-future identity for these children, it seemed as if they were going through a crisis of metamorphosis, as they realized the impossible possibility of otherness. The craziness inherent in the race of pulling down each other's pants was also present in the pleasure they felt when they were circumcising the heads of the flies they collected. I collided the two. The I got the impression that this entire experience could be the container, the mould of something else: I thought that I could create a fiction that carries the cultural debates that goes on in the context of east-west dilemma by using the history of the empire that lost its power was expressed with the metaphor of becoming transvestite, turning into a woman, a castrated child. Thus came into being 'Untitled' (2005).

Tema Celeste Magazine, Fatos Ustek



► Sefer Memisoglu *Untitled*, 2005, video. Courtesy the artist / l'artista.

The decay of grand narratives and ideologies, the loss of a meaningful social perspective, the impossibility of conceiving that the totality of the world is accompanied by an enormous concentration of fragmentary identities, and the internationalization and expansion of meaning enshrined in an unfathomable multitude of "small historicizations" of non-narrative constructs. Sefer Memisoglu goes through these notions and brings out visual aspects of the activities that are taken from our immediate vicinity and everyday environment, activities that create their own logic. His video *Untitled* (2005), evolves around the well-known specificities and abstracted visualizations of everyday events seen in close-up, which are then manipulated and given a new character, but at the same time still remain completely recognizable. Not only is the constructed put to test, but the familiar background phenomena are also reconsidered, revived, reactivated and redeployed.

La decadenza delle grandi storie e delle ideologie; la perdita di una significativa prospettiva sociale; l'impossibilità di pensare che il mondo nella sua totalità sia accompagnato da un'enorme concentrazione di identità frammentarie e l'internazionalizzazione ed espansione di significati, protetti da un'insondabile moltitudine di "piccole storicizzazioni" delle costruzioni non narrative. Sefer Memisoglu attraversa queste nozioni e coglie aspetti visivi delle attività che si svolgono vicino a noi e nel nostro ambiente quotidiano, attività che danno luogo a una propria logica. Il suo video *Untitled* (2005) si basa sulle ben note specificità, e su immagini rese astratte, di avvenimenti quotidiani osservati da vicino, poi manipolati e investiti di un nuovo carattere, pur rimanendo perfettamente riconoscibili. Non solo viene messo alla prova ciò che è artificiale, ma anche i consueti fenomeni di secondaria importanza vengono rivissuti, rianimati e ripresentati.



Excerpt from Vasif Kortun's article headlined as
"Vulgarity. Taking a Side. Tolerance.
Charming World" in the paper "Resmi Görüş"

Bundan daha ög hafta önce Karşı Sanat galerisi, 6-7 Eylül sergisinin açılıp esnasında, kendilenni doğduğu ve yasaklı toprağın kefili sanan ve bu yolda zora hapsurmakta okunmeyen bir günde tarafından basıldı. Yumurtalar ve malum sloganlar eşliğinde ve sergiye konu olan olayları hatırlatan vahim bir tedihi harekâtiyla fotoğrafıñ duvardan indirdiler ve ancak polis eşliğinde mekâna terk ettiler. Sonra açılıg hiç bir şey olmamış gibi döñam etti, geçmiñten gelen kota bir ruya gibi geldi gitmişlerdi. Geçen hafta sonu da, Osmanlı Ermenileri konferansı hukuki bir komedye naçmen gerçekleştirdi. Yumurtalar, domatesler ve bayraklar gene is itapındaydı, bu da bir gizelliñ diajı umuz nikindi sonucta. Anadolu hikâyeleri hoşgörülük, mazlumu korumakla doludur, ferdi sorumluluk düşgününe taşır. Peki, yâğıtlıken, kucaklayıcılıktan nasibini almamış bu grup Vandallığı nereden geldi? Ama bu ulkenin ufaklarının işaretlemeklerinden de eminim.

Bienale dinensek, sergide ilk bakta konulan ibbarıñ topulmasa psikolojide sonun paratablecek işler bile gayet dengeli ve ince eleştiriler abılır. Neden? Çünkü dentim bir cümleyle savuşturan, taraf tutan, eşzilyago oğut, aksine, hayal kurucu ve düşünmememizin düşündürten işler bolar. Halil Altindere'nin Misafirperverlik Alanı'ndaki sergisini düşünün.

Genel kamının aksine, kaka taba, tek satırñ işler çok sadece. Ünneþin, Sefer Memişoglu'nun videosu belki de son yıllarda bu mecrada, ulkenin genetikümüz en can alıcı iş. Misafirperverlik Alanı, yoğun, kaotik, bir anlamda 2003 Venedik Bienali'nin sadece ağızlı günlerinde anımlı bulan "Utopia İstasyonu"nın gerçekten işleyen hali.

Eğer "orta" varsa, ortada buluşma, makul çözümüñ yarılmasına anlamına gelmiyor. Tam aksine, "orta", kamuþal alamî Türkçesi. Tartsıparak, eleştirenek paylaþın, hasımlarıñ üzerinde mücadele ettiði, hiçbir anımda nihalegitirilemeyecek olan ger. Bellekehimizdeki kara noktalarla, yumuşak kamimizla komşusak, utanmaktan ve özür dilemekten feragat etmeden bojuşmak durumundayız. Hem malum hem zâlimiz, kimseñin kimseyeden ahlaki üstünlüğü yok, ortaya konuşmamız gerekiyor ve güncel sanat ortamında Altindere sergisi üzerinden zorlamaya çalılan etnik kırılmaça tecessus etmemek genel, sergi her ne denli belli bir kırılmaç dawet etse de...

Bienalde belli ilkelere önem verdi, bunlardan biri tasarımını elnak bir diken de, örtü baþı manufakta. Anstruktan ve gösterimten uzak durduk. İzleyiciyi işaretlende, koca bezig kulularla ezmedik, ulaşımız esellekle yalnız bırakmadık. Bienalle birlikte payımladığımız kitapta "İstanbul" adı bir tema olarak algılanmak yerine bütün kültürlerin kendisini sergiye ve etrafını çevreleyen senîre olan ilişkilerine barakabiliþeceði bir platform olarak gösterilmeli diye gazmıştık. Samm sergi, beklenenimizin ötesinde, kendi kamuþal alamî üretti. Blogtan, eþki sözlüğü, okullardaki programdan (ivedidim), bienalin arka kontrollerindeki bir günün bir günü – oradaki pogolarak argutanoðum, kesilli bîcili geriden üretildigiñ türk ediyorum.

Çocuklar üzerindeñ sanat yapmanın sakınçalan malum, bu sakınçalardan biri kaderlerini baştan tanımlayıca bir kaliba sokmak ise, bir diken de olsan henis saf ve masum yaratıklar gibi algızmak. Johanna Billing'in tutùn deposundaki "Bojuþlu Dünge" adlı, çocukların yabancı olduğunu bir tilde parklığı videoyu gözleriniz dolmadan seyretemeniz zor ama masumiyetleri doğrudan günlük hayatın realiteñine gidiñmiş, Dünge'nn birkaç dakikalığına büyüüldüğüne -olmadığım bisek de- inanmanın bir sakınca var mı? •

...When we come back to bienal, in the exhibition, even the works that may produce some problems at first sight in social psychology within their themes, are being criticized such balanced and detailed. Why? Because these are not the works that tell their story by just a word, or taking a side or humiliating, on the contrary, these are the works that daydream and make us think what we don't think, in other words, thought provoking. Think about Halil Altindere's exhibition at Hospitality Area (Free Kick). Counter to general opinion, there aren't only crude an one-sentence works.

For example, Sefer Memisoglu's video is maybe the most vital work seen at this scene and in our country in couple of years.

Hospitality Area, is the real functioning version of "Utopia Station" that had a meaning only in opening days of 2003 Venice Bienal, in a manner of intensivity and chaos...

