

PRESS RELEASE

Yael Bartana
Mary Koszmary



opening: September 19th 2008 h. 18-22, the artist will be present
address: Galleria Raffaella Cortese Via Stradella 7 20129 Milano
date: September 19th – November 8th 2008
hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 15.00 – 19.30 or by appointment

Raffaella Cortese is pleased to announce the solo exhibition of the Israeli artist Yael Bartana.

From the beginning of her career, Yael Bartana explores issues of conflict. In particular she is interested in investigating the militarization of the State and how imposing command and propaganda affect daily behaviour and create false heroes.

The video *Mary Koszmary*, filmed in 2007, has as main character Slawomir Sierakowski, a Polish leftist intellectual.

In the video, Sierakowski enters with confident stride into a ruined stadium where he announces his ideas as if in a political assembly, though in front of him there is no public - only an overgrown field. Slowly a group of children begin to appear, they are a new generation who listen to the difficulties of the Poles, a nation that lost 3.000.000 citizens under the Nazi occupation. He speaks of a nightmare, *Mary Koszmary* (bad dreams in Polish), which will only end with the return of the Polish refugees who are fundamental for creating a better future.

Bartana's work offers contemplation on the current and ruthless tragedy of the migration of a whole population asking for political exile due to war and racial discrimination.

Yael Bartana (1970, Afufa, Israele) studied in New York. She lives and works in Amsterdam and Tel Aviv. Her video and photos are in many collections: Tate Modern, London (UK), Jewish Museum New York, New York (USA), Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (NL), Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (NL), Museum de Paviljoens, Almere (NL) , Museum St. Gallen, St Gallen (CH).

On October 2008 a solo exhibition of Yael Bartanas' work will open at P.S.1, New York.

For info: www.my-i-com

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