



## PRESS RELEASE

**Moving Worlds** | Yael Bartana, Danica Dakić, Adrian Paci, Lidwien van de Ven, Paola Yacoub

Curator: Isabelle de le Court

29 January 2011 – 16 March 2011

Inauguration: 28 January 2011, 7pm

Podbielski Contemporary is pleased to announce its inauguration on 28 January at Koppenplatz 5, Berlin Mitte, with the group exhibition *Moving Worlds*. It will be on view until 16 March 2011. The exhibition presents works by Yael Bartana, Danica Dakić, Adrian Paci, Lidwien van de Ven and Paola Yacoub.

*Moving Worlds'* focus is to propose a dual interpretation of spaces, geopolitical and psychological, in times of fast and challenging changes. On the one hand, geopolitical and historical sites, such as Kosovo, Albania, Israel/Palestine and Lebanon – represented in the exhibition – are often charged with memory, anxiety of conflict, suffering and war, responding to Pierre Nora's denomination's *lieux de mémoire*. These locations were often reported by sensationalising media and news in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond, sometimes biased by western perspective or the "coloniser's" gaze. On the other hand, these geopolitical spaces through *Moving Worlds* become artistic representations by means of a photographic or lens-based practice.

The works in question are all, in different ways, about the interpretation or staging of space from an insider's gaze, those of the artists. These spaces therefore become psychological ones and evoke the effect of lived subjectivity. This representation often transcends any given location, thus addressing the collective experience beyond specific circumstances. Made by artists who either carry the history of these spaces or approach it while playing with the usual journalistic, photo-reporter's gaze, the works seek to "move" the viewer on both a dislocating and emotional level. The viewer is therefore invited to share the artists' line of vision.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue with full details of the works and short essays by Griselda Pollock and Isabelle de le Court.

Yael Bartana

**Yael Bartana's** photographic diptych and video *Freedom Border* (2003) question what first appears as an innocent balloon, in reality a surveillance zeppelin, slowly ascending in the sky, reminding one about the state of surveillance. The works uncover a country subjected to the effects of militarization and the contradictions that arise in its society.

**Yael Bartana** (born 1970, Israel) lives and works in Amsterdam and Tel Aviv. She will represent Poland during the Venice Biennial in 2011.

Danica Dakić

**Danica Dakić's** *La Grande Galerie 2* (2004) displays the artist's interest in staging a 'tableau vivant', here residents of the Roma refugee camp in Plementina (Kosovo) posing in front of a reproduction of *Imaginary View of the Grand Gallery of the Louvre in Ruins* by 18th century painter Hubert Robert.

**Danica Dakić** (born 1962, Bosnia and Herzegovina) lives and works in Düsseldorf and Sarajevo. She is currently a visiting professor at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna.

Adrian Paci

*Piktori* (2002), a video work by **Adrian Paci**, triggers a reflection on the artist's status under changing political circumstances. By compromising his artistic talent by falsifying various official documents, the subject of the video opens up his practice to unexpected horizons, unifying different styles and language which interact closely with a reality oscillating between life and death.

**Adrian Paci** (born 1969, Albania) lives and works in Milan. His next major solo exhibition will take place at the Jeu de Paume in 2012.

Lidwien van de Ven

**Lidwien van de Ven's** *Beirut, 02/10/2004 (Marwan Hamadeh)*, conveys an aestheticizing approach to the world through a stark criticism of the journalistic gaze and its resultant interpretations.

**Lidwien van de Ven** (born 1963, The Netherlands) lives and works in Rotterdam and Berlin. Her next exhibition will take place from the 23th of February at the Bloomberg Space in London.

Paola Yacoub

**Paola Yacoub's** *Hall of the Holiday Inn, Beirut, 2001* reflects on the role played by hotel buildings throughout the Lebanese civil war(s), yet conveying the architectural elements of the hotel lobby rather than human interaction. In the same vein, her *Elegiac landscape. Region of Marjayoun. Southern Lebanon, May 2001* reminds us how a landscape, beneath its idyllic surface, can hide the reality of a battle field, forcing the viewer to become aware of the importance of tiny details.

**Paola Yacoub** (born 1966, Lebanon) lives in and works in Beirut and Berlin. Her first retrospective exhibition will open at the Beirut Art Center (BAC) on the 9th February 2011.

Do not hesitate to contact us may you require more information:  
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