

Overexposure

Yael Bartana, b. Israel 1970

By manipulating form, sound and movement, Bartana creates work to trigger personal resonance as she seeks to answer the question "What is this place where I grew up?" Through personal, intimate reactions she aims to provoke honest responses to replace the predictable, controlled reactions encouraged by the state.

Bartana studied in Israel, the Netherlands and New York. Her participation in numerous exhibitions in Israel, Europe and North America include Time Zones (Tate Modern, London, 2004), Liverpool Biennial (2004), Territories (KW, Berlin & Witte de With, Rotterdam, 2003). She was awarded the Dorothea von Stetten - Kunstpreis (Kunstmuseum Bonn, DEU, 2005), the Anselm Kiefer Prize (Wolf Foundation, ISR, 2003). In 2005 she is a candidate for the Prix de Rome (NL, 2005) and will also be showing work in the upcoming Istanbul Biennial. She lives and works in the Netherlands and Israel.

Hala Elkoussy, b. Egypt 1974

Hala Elkoussy is concerned with pushing the boundaries of the "photographable" and the "photogenic" as she questions socially transfixed roles and the process of social integration/marginalization of difference. In her latest work Peripheral, she uses photography and video to explore the edges of the city. Geographical peripheries become the stage on which an investigation of less tangible issues of marginalisation takes place.

Although not political on the outset, Elkoussy's work inevitably generates political reflection, and, on occasion, has generated media outcry.

She is co-founder of the Contemporary Image Collective, an independent, artist-run platform based in Cairo, dedicated to the visual image. She taught photography at the American University in Cairo and has been actively involved in organising and curating several projects, among which PhotoCairo (2003), In A Furnished Flat In Cairo (2004). Her work has been shown in Bamako, Beijing, Cairo, Dakar, Ramallah, Taipei and several European cities. She is currently an artist in residence at the Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunste, Amsterdam.

Wartan Aror Jiftjian, b. Libanon 1974, of Armenian origin

"Growing up in fear without meeting it, hiding from bravery meaning has no function, you have to believe in something. A man cannot live without fate, the apostle was right about his statement, again enemies, let them grow, love your enemies."

Wartan Aror Jiftjian has studied in the Netherlands. Principally a performance artist, he also works with video, writing and jewellery design. He currently lives in Beirut.

Meiro Koizumi, b. Japan 1976

The videos of Meiro Koizumi take the viewer by surprise with their harshness and directness. The combination of seemingly simple content and very strong imagery lead to artworks that are simultaneously repulsive and captivating. So much so, that an art critic might sometimes feel redundant.

Meiro Koizumi studied in Tokyo and at Chelsea College of Art in London. He was artist in residence at ARCUS, Japan, in 2003 and gained a Student Film & Video Award in 2001. He has exhibited at the 2002 Liverpool Biennale - New Contemporaries, at the Barbican Centre (London, UK) and elsewhere in Europe, Japan and New Zealand. He is currently an artist in residence at the Rijksakademie Van Beeldende Kunste, Amsterdam.

Avi Mograbi, b. Israel 1956

"I try not to make any distinction between public events and my personal life. It is sure that many of my compatriots find the occupation of the Palestine territories as unacceptable, as I do. But they don't allow this political problem to go into their lives, they don't do anything to either change or take the responsibility for anything" A. Mograbi 1996-7

Mograbi makes use of a sharp and lucid humor. In this way, his films become an instrument of interrogation, exposing the construction of lies and fiction.*

Mograbi studied Fine Art and Philosophy in Israel. For over 20 years, he has been working in the Israeli feature and commercial film industry. He has collaborated with local and international directors, and in the past few years he has been showing Palestinian films in Tel Aviv on a regular basis.

His own films constitute a very particular combination of documentary and fiction. Therefore, Mograbi has been invited to and awarded by many different film festivals worldwide, including the Shadow Film Festival Amsterdam, and an out-of-competition entry at the last Cannes Film Festival. He has also been invited to art exhibitions such as One Ground at UCR / California Museum of Photography, at the Edith-RuB-Haus für Medienkunst, Germany, and Old Habits Die Hard at Signal, Malmo. He lives in Israel.

* (from: <http://www.nova-cinema.com/main.php?page=archives/2002/59/04mograbi.nl.htm> as in 25/05/2005)

Katarina Zdjelar, b. Serbia 1979

She has finished her studies at the University of Fine Arts and the School of Art Theory in Belgrade. She is currently residing in the Netherlands as a participant of the Piet Zwart Institute in Rotterdam. Her activities include, among others, solo and group exhibitions, theatre (as drama writer and/or stage designer and/or actress), performances (as author and/or performer) in Serbia and Montenegro and in the Netherlands as well.

Her previous and current work is focused on social circumstances in which she lives and works and is in that sense very site-sensitive. Her current field of interest is based around the notion of mobility. Within the projects she does, her primary goal is not to illustrate the social reality of migrants or natives, nor the representation of the foreignness within the host country, but rather to examine consequences of the exchange, to point out the psychological struggle resulting from the simultaneous functioning of mutually shared desires of the guest as well as of the host, to be/keep/stay safe with-in their authenticity.