

://selfportrait – a show for Bethlehem – show for Peace

media art exhibition initiated and curated by Agricola de Cologne at

Al Kahf Gallery Bethlehem/Palestine – 6-30 July 2006

Officyna Art Space Szczecin /Poland – 20 October – 12 November 2006

MAC – Museo de Arte Contemporaneo Santa Fe/Argentina – 6-30 December 2006

Casoria Contemporary Art Museum Naples/Italy 16 Dec. 2006 – 30 January 2007

MACRO – Museo de Arte Contemporaneo Rosario/Argentina – January 2007

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is the first project by Media/Art/Cologne

initiated and curated by Agricola de Cologne, independent curator and director of

[NewMediaArtProjectNetwork]:||cologne. The exhibition takes the classical theme of the artist's selfportrait however executed by using New Media technology and focussing how artists see themselves nowadays and the environment they are living in.

This interactive media art exhibition belongs to the official program of 10th anniversary of the twincityship of the municipalities of Cologne/Germany & Bethlehem/Palestine curated and organised especially for **Al Kahf Gallery Bethlehem/Palestine - 06-30 July 2006** .

The exhibition project is a cooperation with Bethlehem International Center, Officyna Art Space /Szczecin/Poland, MAC – Museo de Arte Contemporaneo Santa Fe/Argentina, MACRO – Museo de Arte Contemporaneo Rosario/Argentina and Casoria Contemporary Art Museum Naples/Italy.

Through its relevance in three world religions, Bethlehem was during more than 2000 years a symbol for peace also beyond, but since some time Bethlehem and the entire Holy Land on the Westbank is vanishing behind a huge wall as the result of a conflict in Middle East which is threatening world peace since many years.

By being present personally and showing face through their selfportraits, the artists participating in the show overcome symbolically this wall which is separating Palestine from Israel, and become messengers of peace this way. But also this wall is just a symbol for all the virtual and physical walls all over the world which are separating people from each other and have to overcome in order to live a life in peace without threatening conflicts.

The show does not only transport the message of solidarity, but also the idea of a free and independent culture without borders, the use of New Media technology represents further a symbol for a new era for solving conflicts via communication.

After an extension, **://selfportrait – a show for Bethlehem – a show for Peace** encompasses now about 300 artists in different digital media . The show includes following aspects of New Media presented in physical space – digital prints to be installed in space or on walls, digital video via projections and installations, multi-media based on different technologies and sonic art via display on computer installation, and not to be forgotten, the artists statements via projection and display on monitors which give an idea about the visions of contemporary artists.

It is planned to show the exhibition at as many places around the globe as possible in order to spread the message of peace.

The 1st show after Bethlehem will be inaugurated on 20 October 2006 at **Officyna Art Space Szczecin/Poland**.

Media/Art/Cologne – a project environment for media art from Cologne

Initiated and directed by Agricola de Cologne

<http://www.mediaartcologne.org> - info@mediaartcologne.org

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Exhibition components

://selfportrait - a show for Bethlehem – a show Peace

incorporates different digital art media and components

a) digital prints (up to 50 to be framed)

b) digital videos (42)

installations, screenings, projections

c) multi-media works (20 - online and/or offline-CD-Rom)

to be displayed from computer

d) soundart (20)

after the show in Bethlehem, this component is extended by

[SoundLAB](#) - Edition IV - “Memoryscapes” (online/offline) incl. 140 artists

e) 100 artists’ statements (specific interface)

f) the works included in the show can be navigated via a common interface, which forms a basic part of the exhibition, because for the visitor it will be possible to surf through the entire exhibition just by sitting on a computer monitor.

This interface can be displayed on one or more monitors either online (broad bandwidth Internet connection) or offline (from DVD).

g) Homepage and project site online

<http://self.engad.org>

→

The dimension and the appearance of the exhibition in physical space is depending basically on the hardware and technical equipment available for the installation on location.

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About the curator

The initiator and curator of the show, Agricola de Cologne is a multidisciplinary media art activist → artist, curator, programmer and multi-media developer, who is not only responsible for the organisation and curating, but he programmed, designed and created also the online/offline interface for the exhibition.

Media/Art/Cologne represents another project environment he initiated

for [NewMediaArtProjectNetwork]:|| cologne, the experimental platform for art and New Media, in order to feature media art in and from Cologne in a global context.

In 2000, Agricola de Cologne started his New Media art activities and developed until these days a complex physical and virtual network consisting of a variety of project environments, professionals in art and culture, institutions and organisations. His projects and individual works realized in this context have been shown successfully worldwide on more than 200 festivals, biennales and media art exhibitions since 2000, just to mention Biennale of New Media Art Merida/Mexico 2003, Biennale of Montreal 2004, Biennale of Electronic Art Perth/Australia 2004, Biennale of Video & New Media Santiago (Chile) 2005, ZKM Karlsruhe/Germany 2005, Ars Electronica 2001-2005, FILE – Electronic Language Festival Sao Paulo (Brazil) 2001-2006, Videoformes Clermont Ferrand (F) 2001-2006, Japan Media Art Festival Tokyo (Japan) 2002, 2006, and many more. His works received numerous prizes and awards.

More details on <http://bio.agricola-de-cologne.de>

Media/Art/Cologne

<http://www.mediaartcologne.org>

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<http://self.engad.org>

[NewMediaArtProjectNetwork]:|| cologne

<http://www.nmartproject.net>

<http://netex.nmartproject.net/index.php?blog=3&cat=75>

NetEX – networked experience

<http://netex.nmartproject.net>

Bethlehem International Center – Al Kahf Gallery

<http://www.annadwa.org>

Casoria Contemporary Art Museum Naples Italy

<http://www.casorialcontemporaryartmuseum.com>

Officina Art Space Szczecin

<http://www.officina.art.pl>

MACRO – Museo de arte Contemporaneo Rosario/Argentina

<http://www.macromuseo.org.ar>

MAC – Museo de arte Contemporaneo Santa Fe/Argentina

<http://www.unl.edu.ar/eje.php?ID=617>

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