

THE COMMON GUILD

Visual arts: Projects / Events / Exhibitions

MEDIA RELEASE

Mircea Cantor

'Which light kills you' - A Proposition by Ami Barak

Exhibition opens on Saturday 14th November 2009 3 - 5pm

Exhibition continues until 23rd January 2010

21 Woodlands Terrace, Glasgow, G3 6DF

Mircea Cantor is the epitome of a 21st century artist, constantly crossing borders but always returning to his roots. For this, the first presentation of his work in Scotland, Cantor will show a specially selected group of works in a characteristically diverse range of media.

Having grown up in Eastern Europe during the Communist era, Cantor frequently draws on his own memory to explore the realities of power and the disintegration of cultural boundaries. Cantor often positions himself at the crossroads between worlds, acting as an observer of societies and cultures and encouraging comparisons between differing attitudes and beliefs.

Cantor creates works that act as tools with which we can deconstruct the meaning of our everyday lives. Through subtle gestures and arrangements, he enhances our habitual perceptions and expectations, highlighting the peculiarities without lecturing in morality or artificial solutions. Cantor stages a reality that is in constant flux, deliberately resistant to unambiguous categorisation and decisively determined by uncertainty. His work takes up social issues while combining political content with a distinctly poetic formal vocabulary.

This exhibition, The Common Guild's fifth at Woodlands Terrace, continues our commitment to introducing the best in contemporary international practice to Scotland. It is proposed by Ami Barak, a highly respected curator living in France who has a long-standing connection with visual art in Scotland and who was invited to make this exhibition, the first in an irregular series of 'propositions by ...', bringing curatorial voices from elsewhere into our conversations about art.

Exhibition open:

Thursday - Friday 12 noon - 7 pm, Saturday 12 noon - 5 pm and by appointment

The Common Guild is supported by Scottish Arts Council and Glasgow City Council and we are grateful to the Alliance Française for its support of the exhibition.

For more information and images, please contact Kitty Anderson:

T: +44 (0)141 223 0087

E: kitty@thecommonguild.org.uk

NOTES

1. **Mircea Cantor** was born in 1977 in Oradea, Romania, and currently lives in Paris, France, but returns to Romania as often as possible. Cantor recently presented 'The need for uncertainty' at Modern Art Oxford and then in different configurations at Arnolfini, Bristol and Camden Arts Centre, London. This will be the first presentation of his work in Scotland. Cantor has also had solo exhibitions at a range of international organisations including; 'Tracking Happiness' at Kunsthaus Zurich 2009, 'Future Gifts', Mucsarnok Kunsthalle, Budapest (2008), 'Deeparture', Black Box, Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, 'Ciel Variable', FRAC Champagne-Ardennes, Reims, France (both 2007), 'The Title Is the Last Thing', Philadelphia Museum of Art and 'Burn to be Burnt', GAMeC, Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Bergamo, Italy (both 2006).

Selected group exhibitions include 'Universal Code', The Power Plant, Toronto, Canada (2009), the '28 Bienal de São Paulo', Brazil (2008), 'Power Play', Artpace, San Antonio, Texas (2007), 'Brave New Worlds', The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota and 'Airs de Paris', Centre Pompidou, Paris, France (both 2007), the '4th Berlin Biennial for contemporary art', Berlin and Notre Histoire..., Palais de Tokyo, Paris (both 2006). In 2004 Cantor was awarded the Prix Paul Ricard S.A, an annual award given to an outstanding representative of the new artistic generation in France.

2. **Ami Barak** is a curator based in Paris, formerly head of the department l'Art dans la Ville, Ville de Paris; Director of the FRAC Languedoc-Roussillon (1993-2002), he has curated numerous projects and exhibitions both in France and abroad.

3. **The Common Guild** is a not-for-profit visual arts organisation dedicated to producing a dynamic international programme of contemporary visual art projects, exhibitions, and events. These include gallery-based exhibitions and ephemeral, non-gallery projects, interventions and collaborations.

4. The Common Guild's temporary home at **21 Woodlands Terrace** is a grand, Victorian townhouse to the west of the city centre next to Kelvingrove Park. Exhibitions take place over two floors, including a unique library, designed by artist Andrew Miller, which will include a selection of Mircea Canor's books and catalogues.