

ERASED WALLS

PRESS RELEASE No. 1



Koen Theys, "Patria", 2008, video installation

"Erased Walls"

Opening: Thursday, 7 October 2010 from 19.00

Exhibition lasts from 7 till 30 October 2010

Opening times: Wed – Fri 14.00 – 19.00, Sat 12.00 – 16.00

Dear Sir or Madam,

The international exhibition project entitled "Erased Walls" has been planned as a three-part project for presentation in Poland (Poznan: 11 Sept. – 30 Oct. 2010), Germany (Berlin: 7 – 30 October 2010) and Slovakia (Bratislava: 4 – 30 Nov. 2010).

After opening at the "Mediations Biennale Poznan 2010" (Poland), this highly acclaimed exhibition project is now coming to Berlin at "**ConcentArt e.V.** – A Space for Projects and Exhibitions". The project is supported by the EU's Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

In addition, as an extension of the exhibition "Erased walls" in Poznan, ConcentArt in Berlin-Kreuzberg is showing the video screenings, video installations, objects of 55 international artists to this theme. The video medium in its ambivalent function – on the one hand as a seemingly neutral documentation of reality, on the other with the option of taking up a personal, creative position and viewpoint on reality – is at the heart of this exhibition. This enables the artists to take a stance on the current situation in Europe: an association of states where physical walls have been destroyed and simultaneously replaced by invisible ones. In their works the artists reflect on stereotypes of Europe's image, such as self-reflexivity, plurality, tolerance or liberal democracy, achievements which Europe can be proud of and which have become common property. So there are good reasons to insist on the specificity and the magic of European culture, even if much of it needs to be put into perspective. New realities are emerging – caused by global changes via modern communications, by growing rivalries between the countries of "old" Europe and the "new" Europe that was formerly excluded from the distribution of wealth and now wants to participate in consumption. No resources are spared to achieve this objective. In addition, an intensification of financial "cannibalism" in the wake of the current financial crisis is leading to even greater disparities between rich and poor. This reinforces xenophobia and intolerance.

As a result, hollow pronouncements on reconciling economic growth with social inclusion, cultural self-will with profit remain – like most other pronouncements – unfulfilled, at least up until now. The illusion of progress in the fields of communication and innovation is total, and the accelerated merry-go-round of values and standards continues against a backdrop of bottomless inequality.

Artists of the exhibition:

Video program of PAM – Perpetual Art Machine (US) – 17 artists

Video program of Ottica TV (GB) – 17 artists

Video program of NCCA – National Centre of Contemporary Art (RU) – 17 Artists

Koen Theys (BE)

Costantino Ciervo (IT)

Alterazionevideo (IT)

Timo Kahlen (DE)

Roland Schefferski (PL)
Jan-Peter E. R. Sonntag (DE)

We'll be pleased to send you more information and press photos on request.

