



Markus Schinwald *Children's crusade* 2004, Courtesy of Georg Kargl Fine Arts, Vienna

GHOSTS OF SELF AND STATE

MOATAZ NASR (Cairo) TOM NICHOLSON (Melbourne) MARKUS SCHINWALD (Berlin/Vienna)
Curator GERALDINE BARLOW

5 APRIL – 10 JUNE 2006

Ghosts of self and state reflects on the construction of history, and the potential for agency in contemporary society. It asks, "To what degree do the state and self mirror each other in their construction? If the soul is the ghost in the machine that is the individual, is there an elusive soul-like space within the mechanism of the state?"

In a collection of powerful and elegiac works, artists **Moataz Nasr** (Cairo), **Tom Nicholson** (Melbourne) and **Markus Schinwald** (Berlin/Vienna) consider the relationship between the personal and the political, between autonomy and identification with a group, as well as the persistence of memory – its fragility, recurrence, and passage into myth. Through the use of the motifs of the mask, the actor, the storyteller and the puppet the artworks in the exhibition study the public and private faces adopted by the citizen and the state, the individual and the body politic.

By restaging and repeating fragments from the past, Curator, Geraldine Barlow suggests:

Each artist frames an impossibly extended moment, beneath which historical trauma drags like a ghost-net haunting the depths of the ocean – the impact of war, of colonial authority, and a community's loss of its children.

In each of these works, the artists offer visions of possible ghosts of self, of the selves we might be or become. Such echoes gather the past before us, and ask what our role will be: as an audience, as autonomous reflective beings and as agents in the world.

Monash University Museum of Art are delighted to welcome Egyptian artist Moataz Nasr to Melbourne to participate in *Ghosts of self and state*.

MONASH UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART | MUMA
Ground Floor, Building 55, Monash University, Clayton Campus, Mel map 575
Telephone +61 3 9905 4217 E: muma@adm.monash.edu.au www.monash.edu.au/muma



MONASH University
Museum of Art

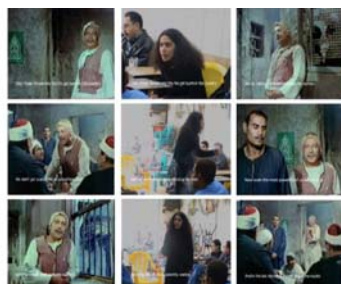
MOATAZ NASR (Cairo) lives and works in Cairo. Nasr, who works in film, sound and installation, is passionately engaged in the narratives which shape collective perceptions of state and nation. Recent solo exhibitions include *The Echo* Touchstones Art Gallery, Rochdale, UK, 2005. His work has been included in numerous major international exhibitions, most recently the *Yokohama International Triennale of Contemporary Art*, Yokohama, Japan, 2005; *AFRICA REMIX*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, 2005. He was awarded the Grand Prize at the Sharjah Biennale in 2005; the Ministry of Culture Prize at the Dakar Biennale, Dakar in 2004 and the Biennale Prize at the 2002 Dakar Biennale.

TOM NICHOLSON (Melbourne) lives and works in Melbourne. Nicholson's practice engages cultural and political realms through a variety of 'actions', which appropriate the idioms of protest, propaganda and art history. Recent solo exhibitions include *Flag Time: Marat at his last breath*, Ocular Lab, Melbourne, 2006; and *22.06.1911/30.10.2004: Documents after Marching Season*, The Aurora Project, Regent Theatre / IASKA, Kellerberrin, 2004. The artist has featured in major group exhibitions including *The body. The ruin*, Ian Potter Museum of Art, University of Melbourne, 2005; *2004: Australian Culture Now*, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, 2004, (with Raafat Ishak); and *NEW04*, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, 2004. In 2005 he was a finalist in the Melbourne Prize for Urban Sculpture. Nicholson's work will also feature in the forthcoming 15th Biennale of Sydney 2006.

MARKUS SCHINWALD (Berlin/Vienna) lives and works between Berlin and Vienna. The body—uncanny, distorted and constrained—is a central motif in Schinwald's films, installations and photographs, a corporeal stage upon which both the collective and individual psyche are revealed as haunted realms of narrative and myth. Recent solo exhibitions include *Ausstellungshalle zeitgenössischer Kunst*, Münster, 2005; *Markus Schinwald—Tableau Twain*, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt am Main, 2004; *dictio pii*, Sprengel Museum, Hanover, 2004 and Moderna Museet Stockholm, 2001. The artist has exhibited regularly in group exhibitions throughout Europe including: *EGOmania*, Galleria Civica, Palazzo Santa Margherita, Modena, 2006 and *I still believe in miracles #2*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, 2005. In 2006 a solo show of his work will be held at the Institute of Contemporary Art, London.

AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT AND INTERVIEWS:

Curator	Geraldine Barlow
Melbourne based artist	Tom Nicholson
Cairo based artist	Moataz Nasr in Melbourne from 3 - 9 April



Moataz Nasr, *The Echo* 2003, DVD, 4 minutes
Courtesy of the artist



Tom Nicholson, *Postering Fitzroy laneway (After action for 2pm Sunday 6 July 1835)* 2005,
Lambda print, 109.7 x 136.3 cm, Courtesy of the artist.
Photography: Christian Capurro

Where: Monash University Museum of art | MUMA
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Exhibition Dates: 5 April – 10 June 2006
Opening Function: 3-5pm Saturday 8 April 2006
MUMA Floor Talks: **Monash University Museum of Art, Clayton, Floor Talks:**
Curator: Geraldine Barlow, Thursday 20 April, 1.15pm
Dr. Michael Janover, Thursday 27 April, 1.15pm
Emeritus Professor Graeme Smith, Thursday 4 May, 1.15pm

Lunch Time Art Forums
Faculty of Art and Design: **Faculty of Art and Design**
Monash University, Caulfield Campus
Geraldine Barlow and Moataz Nasr, Wednesday 5 April, 12.30pm
Tom Nicholson, Wednesday 10 May, 12.30pm

Media Enquires: Melissa Keys, Program Administrator – 03 9905 1618