



Exile of the Imaginary

Politics / Aesthetics / Love

Press Conference and Preview: 17 January 2007, 10.30 a.m.

Opening Reception: 17 January 2007, 7 p.m.

Exhibition Duration: 18 January through 29 April 2007

With works by Andrea Geyer, Ken Gonzales-Day, Sharon Hayes, Adrià Julià, LTTR, Dorit Margreiter, Stephanie Taylor, Kerry Tribe, Bruce Yonemoto, Dolores Zinny/Juan Maidagan.

Exile of the Imaginary showcases artworks and critical writings that ponder the relationship between post-conceptual art practice and the legacy of Roland Barthes's famed *A Lover's Discourse: Fragments*. Specifically, *Exile of the Imaginary* takes up Roland Barthes's assertion that love can be a critical "medium" in politically turbulent times. In each of the individual artworks, the question of desire is the vehicle for approaching the actual subject matter: a specific cultural event. Art is questioned as a critical mediator of social ruptures, thus lifting the dialectical division between "political" and "lyrical" genres.

What would it mean, then, to combine the legacy of Barthes's *Lover's Discourse* with that of Conceptualism as a means of larger cultural/aesthetic critique? Perhaps it would establish a type of "Conceptual Unconscious," a critical, psychoanalytic site of contemporary art production. This is precisely the practice that *Exile of the Imaginary* presents and analyzes.

Juli Carson will join us as curator for this first exhibition of the year, which is traditionally guest-curated. Carson is art historian, art critic, and curator and teaches at the Department of Art of the University of California, Irvine, where she is also director of the University Art Gallery. Since 2004 she is editor of *artUS*. Her essays have appeared in *Art Journal*, *Texte zur Kunst*, *Documents* and *October*. In collaboration with the Generali Foundation Vienna, she has curated the archive section of the exhibition project *Mary Kelly. Post-Partum Document* in 1998.

Artistic and Managing Director: Sabine Breitwieser

Guest Curator: Juli Carson

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