

CONTEMPORIST PROJECT AT [BOX] VIDEO SPACE GALLERY MILANO

CONTEMPO 8
INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART FESTIVAL
VARNA. BULGARIA| 2016

Fish Story | video screening | curator Raul Zamudio (USA)

Adolfo Doring (USA) Coming Soon, 09:00 ; 2012
Cleverson De Oliveira (Brazil) West,04: 28; 2002
Damian Oniveros (Mexico) - The Weight of Lempira. installation; 2016
Emma Mccagg (USA) Ordinary People, 04:00; 2012
Ferran Martin (Spain) & Priscilla Marrero (USA) Farside ,07:07; 2012
Roi Vaara (Norway) An American Trilogy,06:56; 2000;
Roi Vaara (Norway) Artists` Dilemma,03:35;1997
Shahram Entekhabi (Iran) Watching, 1:11 ; 2007

(EN)

about the project

The video selection of the american curator Raul Zamudio is a reflaction of his project presented during the 8th edition of the international contemporary art festival CONTEMPO in Varna, Bulgaria this autumn. He created a multi-media site specific installation by an international selection of artists focused into the geopolitical and socio-cultural topics searching the codes of tolerance using as a metaphor the iconic shipping industry in the region. The exhibition's title is reminiscence from Allan Sekula's 1995 eponymous multimedia artwork. Encompassing photography, video, and textual material, Sekula's project explored the machinations of globalization through the geopolitics of trade at the nexus of the international shipping industry. Fish Story revisits the underpinnings of Sekula's iconic corpus within different contexts twenty-one years later. Unlike Sekula's documentary, the artworks in Fish Story obliquely allude to the shipping industry both in the contemporary moment and in the past as well as the ways in which maritime culture has been expressed throughout history and in various human societies. For example: in ancient Egyptian cosmology the soul or Ka's transition from the world of the living to the afterlife is envisioned as the deceased being guided by an oarsman on a boat to the land of dead. The narrative scope of Fish Story is, on the one hand, about the local via the triangulation of the fishing industry, geopolitics and economics but also the various ways the sea has manifested in the cultural imaginary. Apart from the above example of how ancient Egyptians incorporated their maritime identity into their worldview, there are numerous instances where the sea has inspired myths as well as the setting for difficult realities. There is abundant and poetically rich seafaring literature and folklore such as the ancient Greek tales of Ulysses, The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, Ghost ships, The Flying Dutchman, as well as myths that arise from history and vice versa including piracy. But then there is also the grim reality of global strife in which the sea has played part or used as geo-political backdrop. And some of the most harrowing events of recent memory include the refugee crises in the Middle East caused by war and terror motivating people to flee to safety by way of the sea. Lastly is that Fish Story has been exhibited in Varna, Bulgaria, which is a country that connects Europe with the Middle East by way of Turkey. It is not only a geographical link,

however, that makes Bulgaria so imperative but also the convergence of history and cultures thus creating a model of tolerance and inclusivity that is so necessary today.

Fish Story is curated by **RAUL ZAMUDIO** – a New York-based independent curator and writer who has constant interest in the processes of globalization and migration, the modality of collective memory due to the influence of mass media, the impact of excess production and consumption relevant to the ecology of the socio-cultural relationships. The Fish story concept was specially created for the Contempo festival, noting these trends of modernity.

Adolfo Doring (USA/Mexico)

Coming Soon - 9', 2012

Single Channel Video



Shahram Entekhabi (Iran/ Germany)

Watching, 2007, video HD, color, sound, 01:11 min



Emma Mccagg (USA)
Ordinary People - 4', 2012



Ferran Martin (Spain) & Priscilla Marrero (USA)
Farside - 7'7", 2012



Damian Oniveros (Mexico)
1974, Born in Monterrey. Lives and works in Monterrey, Nuevo León, México

***The Weight of Lempira. Reconfiguration and
Necrosis Landscape, Copan, Honduras.***

animation. object installation
Graphite on Honduran lempira.2016



Cleverson De Oliveira (Brazil)

West

black and white video with audio,
4 min. 28 sec. 2002



Roi Vaara (Norway)

An American Trilogy

color video with audio, 6 min. 56 sec., 2000



Artists' Dilemma

color video with audio, 3 min. 35 sec. 1997



CONTEMPO is an international contemporary art festival, created in 2009 in Varna following the idea of the artist Raya Georgieva (1978 -2009) and implemented by Raya Georgieva Foundation with partnership between Varna private galleries, public and private culture institutions, business structures with interest in creative industries, culture workers, journalists and philanthropists. CONTEMPO is a noncommercial platform to encourage, present and promote the art production of young authors through dialogue and exchanges. The event is settled to present a dynamic version of creative searches and trends in the younger generation of art, to promote their work and provide a stage for the realization of their artistic provocations and dialogue. The VIII edition of international contemporary art festival CONTEMPO 8 was held from 20th September to 4th October 2016 in Varna, Bulgaria. The festival body consisted four modules:

- Art Box C8 - The three sea shipping containers were transformed into art galleries and it will offer to the audience a variety of events as well as a video art screenings, installationsq objects, photography, paintings. The events havebeen one dynamic scheduling and attractive type of presentations, including music performances and artist-talks.
- FREEDOM – The second edition of international monumental sculpture meeting were created 7 artists residencies in stone / metal / wood and will reveal 7 art laboratories for outdoor sculpture during which the audience have been able to monitor the stages of the creative process and its peculiarities. The module ended with an exhibition of monumental works.
- Varna Art Days – From 30 September to 4 October 2016 was held a parade of Varna`s private galleries with representative exhibitions defining its range of artists and styles .
- #contempo – collateral program includes edu contempo - educational selection of video presentations , Jcontempo – 4 days sessions, dj parties and performances in the most popular Varna`s musical clubs and alternative scenes; culTourist – daily guided tours throughout all contempo locations.



www.contempovarna.org
www.facebook.com/contempo.varna
e-mail: dorabulart@gmail.com