



künstlerhaus bethanien gmbh : press release

Berlin, 15th March 2009

Dear Colleagues,

We are happy to invite you to the opening of the following exhibition:

CHRISTODOULOS PANAYIOTOU

**Prologue: Quoting Absence
The End**

27th March – 12th April 2009, Studio 2

Wed – Sun, 2 – 7 pm

Opening: Thursday, 26th March 2009, 7 pm

CHRISTODOULOS PANAYIOTOU's art is concerned with social concepts and practices: "Inspired by anthropology, Panayiotou often casts himself in the role of a scientist doing field studies, in order to shed light on the manifestations and myths of 'cultural performances' such as rituals and festivals." (Valérie Knoll, Art Forum International, March 2009).

Frequently integrating video and sound into the framework of an installation, Christodoulos Panayiotou conceives his work in thematic fields that remain open to fresh arrangement and reinterpretation at any time. Panayiotou has brought together several recent and new works for his exhibition at Künstlerhaus Bethanien.

It will be presented in two sections or phases: each day **from 2 – 3 pm**, first it will be possible to hear the audio work *Prologue: Quoting Absence* in the emptied exhibition space; this is the first part of a three-part series imitating a classic academic dissertation on the subject of 'absence'. Four scientists from a wide range of disciplines at the University of Oxford – philology, theology, astrophysics and art – were commissioned to research into the topic of 'absence' and to take part subsequently in a one-day round of closed discussions in a sound studio.

The outcome of the recorded discussions is a 4-channel sound installation, which Christodoulos Panayiotou always presents in an empty space.

Each day **from 3 – 7 pm** a series of works entitled *The End* – which is also the title of one of the key works – will be on display in the same space. *The End* heralds a project that will be com-

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pleted in the Electoral Opera House in Bayreuth on 26th June 2009 exactly: the artist will replace the theatre's historical backdrop with a deep black curtain for the duration of approximately one hour.

As in all of Panayiotou's works, *Quoting Absence* and *The End* also convey a feeling of isolation and melancholy, and so emphasises the aspect of 'absence' on which Christodoulos Panayiotou's creative practice is focused.

CHRISTODOULOS PANAYIOTOU was born in Limassol, Cyprus in 1978; he lives and works in Limassol and Berlin. After completing training in dance and drama in Lyon and London, he studied philosophy and anthropology. Exhibitions incl.: The Museum Of Modern Art Oxford, 2006; Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center, Istanbul 2006; The National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens 2007; Den Frie, Copenhagen, 2007; Taipei Biennial 2008, Busan Biennial 2008. In 2005, he was awarded the prestigious DESTE Prize.

Christodoulos Panayiotou is currently a guest at Künstlerhaus Bethanien on a one-year fellowship from the UNDO Foundation, Cyprus.

The press office of Künstlerhaus Bethanien is happy to provide further information and picture material on request.

Best regards,
Künstlerhaus Bethanien