

Artists Talk / Workshop
A Question of Evidence

A Question of Evidence presents artists and cultural practitioners that engage with or comment upon the difficulty of creating, collecting, and disseminating evidence-based material around issues such as identity politics, the suppression of human rights, democratic reform, and attempts to restrict free expression and representation. As “narrations of urgency”, the works in the exhibition often present multiple perspectives on conflicted or rapidly changing realities, whilst investigating the hybrid nature of the evidence, as being something which is highly constructed, personalized, even possibly fake, contested or cryptic—its authenticity depending foremost on the credibility of the witness.

Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary is pleased to announce a seminar which will take place in the afternoon before the opening, on November 19. The contributions contain theoretical statements as well as presentations by artists and curators. This afternoon is especially dedicated to the discussion of the specific artistic and curatorial practices and positions represented in the exhibition.

Program, November 19th 2008

2:30 pm

Introduction and exhibition preview of **A Question of Evidence**

3:00 pm

Charles Merewether

The rumor of the archives

Archival practices and crisis of legibility

3:30 pm

Amar Kanwar

Presentation: The First Torn Pages

15 min

3:45 pm

Khin Khin Su

Performance, Theater, Action

15 min

4 pm

Discussion with **Keiko Sei (on request)**

Artistic and filmic Practices in Burma and the Burmese exile communities

4:30 pm

Nikolaus Hirsch & Michel Müller

Presentation of the Cybermohalla Hub and the “minor practices” of the Cybermohalla Ensembles

5 pm

Roundtable

Khin Khin Su, Gonkar Gyatso, Amar Kanwar, Nikolaus Hirsch & Michel Müller, Francesca von Habsburg, Aradhana Seth, Daniela Zyman. Moderator: Diana Baldon

Participants:

Amar Kanwar: *1964 in New Delhi where he lives and works. He has produced several films that emerge from his enduring exploration of the politics of power, violence, sexuality, and justice. His installation “The Torn First Pages” (2004-2008) is a central contribution to the exhibition.

Charles Merewether: Charles Merewether is an art historian and writer on contemporary and postwar art who has taught at universities in the United States, Europe, South America, and Australia. He is editor of “The Archive” (2006, MIT Press), a collection of essays on the role of archives in modern art and history and most recently “Ai Weiwei: Under Reconstruction” (2008).

Nikolaus Hirsch & Michel Müller: The work of the two Frankfurt-based architects focuses on experimental institutional projects such as the Bockenheimer Depot Theater in Frankfurt (with William Forsythe), the European Kunsthalle in Cologne, Unitednationsnationsplaza in Berlin (with Anton Vidokle), and, currently, the Cybermohalla Hub in Delhi. A model of the Cybermohalla Hub will be shown in the exhibition.

Khin Khin Su is the first Burmese transsexual artist. She was born in 1978 in Central Africa. Moving with her externally displaced Burmese parents, Khin Khin Su has lived on five continents. Her work will be presented in the exhibition as well as on a related weblog titled “People’s Desires” and created in support of the freedom of expression in Burma.

Gonkar Gyatso: *1961 in Lhasa. He graduated from the Fine Art Department of the Central Institute of Nationalities, Beijing, and from the Chelsea Art & Design College, London. He currently lives and works in London.

Keiko Sei is a writer and curator in the field of art and independent media. After running an organization for independent video and video art in Japan, she moved to Eastern Europe in 1988 to research the media scene of the socialist bloc. Since 2002 she has been based in Bangkok, where she continues her research and practice as curator.