



NEWS

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Philagrafika presents:
Re:Print Re:Present Re:View
September 6 – November 3, 2007

Philadelphia, PA (August 6, 2007) Philagrafika, in partnership with Temple Gallery, is pleased to announce *Re:Print Re:Present Re:View*. The exhibition will open on September 6 and run through November 3, 2007 at 259 N. 3rd Street. The exhibition features the works of three internationally renowned artists: Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, Rachid Koraïchi and Berni Searle.

Each artist's project will directly engage an aspect of Philadelphia's diverse and multiple histories, through a contemporary or historical episode or a site or neighborhood. The exhibition was conceived by guest curator Salah M. Hassan, who is Director of Africana Studies and Research Center and Professor of African and African Diaspora art history and visual culture in the Department of History of Art at Cornell University.

Re:Print Re:Present Re:View is the first curatorial project presented by Philagrafika in preparation for a multi-institutional celebration in 2010. *Philagrafika 2010*, led by Artistic Director José Roca, will feature emerging and established artists from around the world. Planned for January through April 2010, *Philagrafika 2010* will spotlight the printed image, celebrating its emergence as a complex and dynamic force in contemporary art and culture. This festival will enhance the city's profile as an international destination for contemporary art. On November 7, 2007 Philagrafika Artistic Director José Roca will be at the William Penn Foundation for a *Philagrafika 2010* press reception.

In preparation for the 2010 festival themes, the *Re:Print Re:Present Re:View* exhibition guest curator Salah Hassan chose artists who would challenge the traditional notion of print. Berni Searle created a video installation, Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons created wallpaper and Rachid Koraïchi conceived of a printed banner project.

South African artist Searle continues her exploration of issues around history, memory and place. Literally

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Temple Gallery
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PHILADELPHIA EXHIBITIONS INITIATIVE



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and figuratively creating a 'spin on history' Searle's video creates a whirling mass that draws everything near it towards its centre, eventually becoming subsumed in the process. Playing with visibility and invisibility, Searle's video draws on the idea of a vortex as a situation or feeling that seems to swamp and engulf everything. Evoking a sense of illusiveness, the work stands in contrast to the seemingly established notions around patriotism. Searle began with the history of Philadelphia, as the "cradle of liberty," as a starting point to develop a work that "looks at some of the more troublesome aspects of nationalism, as well as the role of gender and domesticity in 'the making of a nation'."

The exhibition at Temple Gallery will be joined by two site-specific projects: Boston-based Afro-Cuban Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons's *Corner/Opera. Rethinking Site*, is multi-media work that will be installed at Paul Robeson House, and a series of banners, *Homage to Love and Memory*, by Paris-based Algerian artist Rachid Koraïchi will be installed at the Church of the Advocate.

In *Corner/Opera, Rethinking a Site*, her multimedia installations at the Temple Gallery and the Robeson House, Campos-Pons continues her earlier exploration of personal narrative to explore how history and tradition are passed from generation to generation, and how collective memory is preserved in sites and everyday objects. Campos-Pons will transform the Robeson house with elements such as wallpaper and textiles, combined with video projection. Campos-Pons is interested in promoting the efforts of the West Philadelphia Cultural Alliance and the campaign to restore the Paul Robeson House, located at 4951 Walnut Street in West Philadelphia. Campos-Pons also created a limited edition fine art print at the Borowsky Center for Publication Arts of The University of the Arts celebrating Paul Robeson and the contemporary neighborhood youth.

Rachid Koraïchi's *Homage to Love and Memory* is an installation of twenty-one large banners that will be installed at the Church of Advocate at 1801 W. Diamond Street in North Philadelphia. The drawings for this project will be on view as digital prints at Temple Gallery. The banners were conceived as a dialogue with and homage to seven Philadelphia writers, poets and activists who have connections to historic or current events in Philadelphia. Central to Koraïchi's work is the Sufi idea crystallized in Al-Rumi's concept of the inseparability of aesthetics and metaphysics; his compositions for the banners are rooted in Sufi significations, by their ordering of numbers and their symbolisms that suggest the transcendent link between human beings and the divine order.

The project artists conceived of small artist publications and printed ephemera designed by Tony Smyrski (of Megawords Magazine). Publication pieces can be collected over the course of the exhibition from the sites and the Philagrafika website. The complete publication package will be released later this fall and available for purchase from www.philagrafika.org.

Accompanying programming includes a lecture by the curator Salah Hassan on Thursday, September 6 at 6:30 pm at Temple University and a panel discussion on Saturday, October 13 featuring Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, Rachid Koraïchi, Salah Hassan. For additional information about the artists, the exhibition projects and related programs please go to www.philagrafika.org.



Special press preview for exhibition at Temple Gallery on Thursday, September 6, 2007 from 1-3 pm. Press images are available from the Philagrafika website at www.philagrafika.org. For further information or to set up interviews with the participating artists or the curator, please contact Caitlin Perkins at 215.701.6148 or cperkins@philagrafika.org.

This project has been supported by a grant from the Philadelphia Exhibitions Initiative, a program of the Philadelphia Center for Arts and Heritage, funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and administered by The University of the Arts, Philadelphia. Additional project support provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the Pennsylvania Humanities Council and the Friends of Temple Gallery.

About Philagrafika

Philagrafika, a regional consortium of cultural organizations and individuals, committed to the planning and realization of an international festival of the contemporary printed image in 2010.

About Tyler Exhibitions

The mission of the Exhibitions and Public Programs department of Tyler School of Art at Temple University is to explore and encourage experimentation in artistic practice and interpretation. The department provides a platform for young artists for the production and presentation of their work and a forum for the larger community to examine the most recent developments in contemporary art and their relationships to broader cultural contexts.

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