

Thursday, 4. 6. 2009 – M1, Semperdepot
open to general public

19:00 Johannes Paul Raether (Berlin)
PRACHTSRASSE, FANMEILE, PREUSSENSCHLOSS
Nation branding and New Nationalism in Germany

In the recent years Germany has seen yet another revival of Nationalism. Unlike in the Nineties, when Nazi-skins and the Kosovo war dominated the discourses around Nationalism in Germany, the contemporary "new Nationalism" expresses itself in culture. Building up to the 2006 world cup and the 60year anniversary of the BRD in 2009 an unprecedented amount of nation branding-campaigns, exhibitions and events was organized to communicate Germany as a strong, yet self-critical Nation. In the term of the "purified nation" and the "Kulturation" and along narratives of a seemingly funny and harmless "party-otism" where "it's only about soccer" new forms of a "culturalized Nationalism" seem to take shape.

Johannes Paul Raether is an artist and author, activist and performer based in Berlin. He will show his new project, Prachtstrasse, a slide show, which he produced since 2006. The slide-film researches the image-campaign "Germany – Land of Ideas, " an initiative of the German government and the Federation of German Industries during the soccer world championship in 2006. In this framework, six monumental sculptures were erected in the centre of Berlin – all representing "German" inventions.

Johannes Paul Raether will also discuss examples of intervening into the national consensus in culture by the means of performance, actions, happenings and artist organization, focusing on how to articulate a fundamental critique of the nation, as a critical cultural producer, without being embraced by the very contemporary German nationalist discourse: "the self-critical nation."

Organized by the Institut für das künstlerische Lehramt/ Institute for Education/ in collaboration with Post-conceptual art practices and the Department for Art and Communication at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

Presentation of the lecturer by Eva Egermann
Moderation debate after the lecture Eduard Freudmann

LECTURE
JOHANNES PAUL RAETHER