

March 15, 2004

Bennington College Presents International Art Exhibition *Thin*

Thin is an exhibition of international artists—Irit Batsry, Omer Fast, A Constructed World, and Chrysanne Stathacos—to be held from March 23 to April 18, 2004, in Bennington College's Usdan. The opening will be March 23, 2004, from 6:00-8:00 pm.

The screening of Irit Batsry's 80-minute film, *These Are Not My Images (neither there nor here)*, will be held as part of the opening at 8:00 pm in Tishman Auditorium. Stathacos' *Rose 3*, a performance/installation, will be on Sunday, March 21, 2004 at 2:00 pm in the Usdan Gallery.

Thin is curated by Bennington College Visual Arts faculty Rina Banerjee and Maxine Henryson in collaboration with seven Bennington College students. A Constructed World, Fast, Stathacos, and Batsry use "narrative structures" to investigate our unreliable reality in the world. Examining cultural phenomena that are either native or adopted, each artist strengthens the hybridity of their artistic voice.

The artists use video, installation, mixed media, and photography to point out the diverse possibilities within the act of contemplating our globe. "Thinning" the notion of the singular, internal, and isolated, they reveal cultural values, which are political, domestic, and spiritual. In the year 2004, our uncertain connections to place and our expanded possibility of quick air travel give us access to locale, which may or may not transform us. Consuming other cultural vocabularies may not reinvent us but rather service us with a tangible, potentially "thin" connection to diverse cultures. When all things become unfamiliar, they acquire a new meaning and material for art. To permeate through popular culture, globalize and bypass the tourism that transforms everything into souvenirs, these artists choose to transcend difference and language. The hope is to provide for all and every possibility, all perspectives and work in the global arena. This process appears to make "thin" a cultural world that in the artists' hands vanishes the original meaning of the local subject, reinterpreting it into a series of visibilities ready to travel. The pure subject is flawed. The process of branding allows the viewer to always have an answer to "who am I?" "Like sticky fly paper" we wait for the one event to occur that will define us. Thin narrows possibilities in order to search for meaning.

Irit Batsry, a New York-based Israeli born artist, will show her film, *These are Not My Images (neither here nor there)*. Shot in India, it received the Whitney Biennial 2002 Bucksbaum Award. Prints from her project *Neither Here Nor There* will be shown in the exhibition.

Omer Fast, a young American Israeli artist will exhibit his video *CNN Concatenated*. Shot after 9/11, clips from various international news agencies are strung together and viewed in a loop.

"A Constructed World" (Jacqueline Riva and Geoff Lowe, two Australian artists based in Torino, Italy and New York) will show *Sending and Receiving a video installation*.

Chrysanne Stathacos, a Greek American/Canadian artist, will create *Rose 3*, the third installation/performance of a seven part Rose series, reflecting the process of time, birth, desire, death, and emptiness that will culminate in a video work, *The Roses*.