

Press release

Exhibitions

24.1.2005

Lara Baladi

Kai'ro

Hall 18.2. – 29.5. 2005

Lara Baladi's exhibition *Kai'ro* introduces photographs and videos assembled as mosaics as well as results of a co-operation of the artist and Egyptian poster painters. In Pori the touring exhibition extends to the advertisement posters spread out on the streets and to a big advertisement wall painted inside the museum. Exhibition includes also a documentary film of poster painters' work being followed in Egypt and Pori.

Lebanese born Baladi moves between frontiers. Both in her works – in which photographs taken in Tokyo and Cairo form a compatible beating entity – and geographically. She is part of a generation of Arabs who has lived in many countries without seemingly belonging to any of them. She feels at home and comfortable in Beirut but the city that continually inspires and provokes her is Cairo. Baladi has also lived years in Paris and studied in London.

The name of the exhibition "Kai'ro" refers to the Japanese signs meaning a return, a loop and a road, path. The exhibition contains both photographic works and installations, including newly produced works, being shown for the first time.

Baladi's works often consist of a large number of photographs, assembled as a mosaic. Many are heavily styled: they have influences from advertisements and fashion photography, both Islamic image material mixed in Barbie kitsch and popular culture. The point of departure is a vigorous and perennial practice of photographing people, facades, details, appearances; a meticulous bringing together of human conditions and experiences. Her approach is sometimes autobiographical, always vernacular, yet also melodramatic, bordering to memory work, performance and film.

The solo exhibition is the first opportunity for a Northern European audience to encounter her work. It is a part of a co-operated international tour, which started last year at BildMuseet., Umeå . After Pori Art Museum part of the exhibition continues its journey to Nikolaj, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center, Denmark and to Länsmuseum Vesternorrland, Härnösand, Sweden.

The exhibition is produced by BildMuseet, Umeå University, Sweden.

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