



For Immediate Release

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Renata Poljak Addresses Memorialization and Entertainment in *Ruta and the Monument*

Contact

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Renata Poljak
Ruta and the Monument
September 27-December 13, 2008

Public Program

Wednesday, November 12, 2008
6:30-8:30 PM

Feminism and Memory/Memories of Feminism

A conversation between Kimberly Lamm, Assistant Professor of Critical and Visual Studies at Pratt Institute, and artist Renata Poljak, about feminism and zones of political conflict. Poljak's short films *Souvenirs* (1999) and *Skok/Jump* (2000) will be screened.

Croatian artist **Renata Poljak** has her first New York solo exhibition at Art in General presenting her newest video work, ***Ruta and the Monument*** from September 27-December 13, 2008. There will be an opening reception with the artist Friday, September 26, from 6:30-8:30 pm. ***Ruta and the Monument*** is a two-channel video installation with a dreamlike depiction of a World War II holocaust story juxtaposed with a modern-day situation where tourists and their guide unwittingly trivialize a holocaust memorial.

Art in General resident artist **Renata Poljak** is a Paris-based video artist originally from Split, Croatia. Her work explores the dramatic political upheaval and violence the Balkan region has undergone since the early 1990s, and the ramifications of those changes in the lives of émigrés throughout Western Europe. Poljak's videos and installations often combine staged and even fantastical situations with documentation of real-life misunderstandings and misuses of power.

Her filmic explorations meld autobiographical incidents—her experience as a woman in the former Yugoslavia and in France, for example—and scenarios reflecting the social and political consequences of Croatia’s move from socialism to free market capitalism. With subjects ranging from the memorialization of the Holocaust to the trauma of post-civil war Serbio-Croatian relations, Poljak’s work investigates how transitional political and economic moments can reignite brutal social customs with deleterious effects for women and ethnic or religious minorities.

About the Artist

Renata Poljak was born in Split, Croatia and received her undergraduate degree from the Arts Academy in Split. She received her post-graduate degree from the École Régionale des Beaux-Arts de Nantes, France and has been awarded residencies in San Francisco, Vienna, and Paris. Poljak’s work has been shown internationally and has received numerous awards including the Golden Black Box Short Award at the Balkan Black Box Festival in Berlin and the Annual Award of Women’s Art Center Electra in Zagreb, Croatia.

<http://www.renatapoljak.com/>

Support

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About Art in General

Founded in 1981 in Lower Manhattan, Art in General is a nonprofit organization that assists artists with the production and presentation of new work. It changes in response to the needs of artists and engages the public with their work. In 26 years the organization has emerged as one of New York City’s leading nonprofits devoted to supporting and stimulating the creation of contemporary art, providing an environment in which artists may exhibit unconventional work and exchange ideas with their peers.

Art in General is located at 79 Walker Street, NYC, one block south of Canal Street between Lafayette and Broadway.

Subway directions: take the 6, A-C-E, N-Q-R-W, or J-M-Z subway to Canal Street.

Gallery hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 pm.

Office hours: Monday-Friday 10am-6pm.

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