

# Press Information

February 2009

## Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2009

Exhibition dates: 20 February – 12 April 09

Location: 16 – 18 Ramillies Street, London, W1F 7LW

### Contents:

- Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2009
  - Wall Text
  - List of Works
- Print Sales Display: Guy Tillim
- Visitor Information

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## Introduction to the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2009

### History

Founded by The Photographers' Gallery in 1996, and now in its 13th year, the Prize has become one of the most prestigious international arts awards and has established the careers of many photographers over the years. Previously known as the Citigroup Photography Prize, the Gallery is delighted to have been collaborating with Deutsche Börse Group as sponsors of the Photography Prize since 2005. Deutsche Börse has developed a major corporate collection of contemporary photography including work by many photographers who have been previously shortlisted for the Prize.

### Aims

The Prize seeks to acknowledge today's leading international photographers and artists and to raise the profile of photography within the visual arts by acting as a focus for debate. The aim of the Prize is also to increase audiences for contemporary photography and explore its wider role in society.

### Nomination Process

Each year, an international jury selects four photographers from nominations made by the Academy, a group of photography experts and professionals from across Europe invited by The Photographers' Gallery. Its members are asked to nominate a living photographer, of any nationality, who has made the most significant contribution to the medium of photography in Europe over the past year.

In October 2008, the jury shortlisted four photographers for the Prize whose work is now shown at the Gallery. On Wednesday 25 March 2009, the Jury will meet to select the winner. The winner will receive an award of £30,000 and the other three finalists £3,000 each.

### Jury

This year's jury members are **David Campany**, writer/lecturer, University of Westminster (UK); **David Goldblatt**, photographer (South Africa); **Chus Martínez** Chief Curator, Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (Spain); and **Anne-Marie Beckmann**, Curator, Art Collection Deutsche Börse (Germany). Brett Rogers, Director of The Photographers' Gallery, is the non-voting chairman of the jury.

### Previous Prize Winners

The previous winners of the Photography Prize are Esko Männikkö, Finland (2008), Walid Raad/The Atlas Group, Lebanon (2007); Robert Adams, USA (2006); Luc Delahaye, France (2005); Joel Sternfeld, USA (2004); Juergen Teller, Germany (2003); Shirana Shahbazi, Iran (2002); Boris Mikhailov, Ukraine (2001); Anna Gaskell, USA (2000); Rineke Dijkstra, The Netherlands (1999); Andreas Gursky, Germany (1998), and Richard Billingham, UK (1997).

### Catalogue

A fully illustrated catalogue, edited by Stefanie Braun, is available for purchase from the Gallery Bookshop on the first floor at the special exhibition price of **£17.99**. The catalogue includes essays by Salah M. Hassan, Dr Sarah James and Susan Kismaric as well as an interview between Tod Papageorge and Michael Almereyda. Monographs on each of the shortlisted artists are also available from the Bookshop.

**Further Information**

Paul Graham's work is exhibited on the ground floor.

The work of Emily Jacir, Tod Papageorge and Taryn Simon can be viewed on the second floor.

A series of talks and events accompanies the exhibition. Please visit the website for further information, [www.photonet.org.uk](http://www.photonet.org.uk).

Short films on each of the shortlisted artists, produced by The Photographers' Gallery, are screened here on the ground floor.

The exhibition will tour to C/O Berlin, Cultural Forum for Photography in Berlin (29 May and 29 July 2009), and will also be shown at the Deutsche Börse Headquarters in Frankfurt in the Autumn.

## Gallery 1 – Paul Graham (Ground Floor)

Paul Graham (b. 1956, UK) has been nominated for his publication *a shimmer of possibility* (steidlMACK, October 2007).

Graham's installation features a selection of photographs from *a shimmer of possibility*, taken while travelling across the United States between 2004 and 2006. The work was first presented in the form of a 12-volume publication, with individual books ranging from a single photograph to 60 pages of images. Graham's quiet photographic moments find sublime pleasure in everyday activities, like playing a game of basketball or waiting for a bus. They work as 'filmic haikus', tiny rivulets of time where nothing much happens but everything shimmers in the flow of life.

20 images from *a shimmer of possibility (2004 – 2006)* Framed pigment ink prints, various dimensions

Courtesy of Anthony Reynolds Gallery, London

## Gallery 2 – Tod Papageorge, Taryn Simon and Emily Jacir (Second Floor)

### Tod Papageorge

Tod Papageorge (born 1940, USA) has been nominated for his exhibition *Passing Through Eden: Photographs of Central Park*, Michael Hoppen Gallery, London (7 March – 12 April 2008).

Tod Papageorge produced the photographs in *Passing Through Eden*, a poetic study of Central Park, between 1966 and 1991 while he was living in New York City. Primarily using a medium-format camera, Papageorge immersed himself in the park's free-flowing life to capture a whole spectrum of human activity. He later employed the Book of Genesis to lend a sequencing structure to the book and exhibitions of the work. This presentation is a small, but indicative selection from a much larger body of photographs.

### List of works (left to right)

12 x selected images are from *Passing through Eden: Photographs of Central Park* (1966 - 1991). Framed black and white photographs, dimensions variable

Courtesy of Pace/MacGill Gallery, New York, and Michael Hoppen Gallery, London

*Untitled*, 1982

*Untitled*, 1978

*Untitled*, 1991

*Untitled*, 1989

*Untitled*, 1980

*Untitled*, 1991

*Untitled*, 1987

*Untitled*, 1982

*Untitled*, 1982

*Untitled*, 1982

*Untitled*, 1969

*Untitled*, 1979

## Taryn Simon

Taryn Simon (b. 1975, USA) has been nominated for her exhibition *An American Index of the Hidden and Unfamiliar* at The Photographers' Gallery, London (28 August – 29 November 2007).

For *An American Index of the Hidden and Unfamiliar* (2003 - 2007), Simon compiles an inventory of what lies hidden and out-of-view within the borders of the United States. Assuming the dual role of shrewd informant and collector of curiosities she examines a culture through careful documentation of diverse subjects from the realms of science, government, medicine, entertainment, nature, security, and religion. Simon creates a collection of works that reflect and reveal a national identity while confronting the divide between those with and without access.

### List of works (left to right)

10 x images from *An American Index of the Hidden and Unfamiliar* (2003 – 2007)

Chromogenic c-prints, 94.5 x 113cm each

Courtesy of Gagosian Gallery, New York

*White Tiger (Kenny), Selective Inbreeding*  
*Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge and Foundation*  
*Eureka Springs, Arkansas*

Kenny was born to a breeder in Bentonville, Arkansas on February 3, 1999. As a result of inbreeding, Kenny has mental retardation and has significant physical limitations. Due to his deep-set nose, he has difficulty breathing and closing his jaw, his teeth are severely malformed and he limps from abnormal bone structure in his forearms. In the United States, all living white tigers are the result of selective inbreeding to artificially create the genetic conditions that lead to white fur, ice-blue eyes and a pink nose. The three other tigers in Kenny's litter are not considered to be quality white tigers as they are yellow coated, cross-eyed and knock-kneed.

*Exploding Warhead*

*Test Area C-80C*

*Eglin Air Force Base, Florida*

72 mm-Kodak film, transferred onto HD-Video (1:08 min, Loop)

This film by Taryn Simon shows a test of an MK-84 IM (Insensitive Munition) Warhead conducted at the Eglin Air Force Base Air Armament Center. The warhead was tested by the 46th Test Wing's 780th Test Squadron in order to collect pressure and fragment velocity data on a new, experimental explosive warhead fill. The Air Armament Center is responsible for the development, testing and deployment of all U.S. air-delivered weapons. It tripled its production of Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) for Operation Iraqi Freedom. This film was taken using a remote sequencer that detonated the warhead from a control bunker. It was shot on U.S. government issue material with marking.

*Nuclear Waste Encapsulation and Storage Facility, Cherenkov Radiation*

*Hanford Site, U.S. Department of Energy*

*Southeastern Washington State*

Submerged in a pool of water at Hanford Site are 1,936 stainless-steel nuclear-waste capsules containing cesium and strontium. Combined, they contain over 120 million curies of radioactivity. It is estimated to be the most curies under one roof in the United States. The blue glow is created by the Cherenkov Effect which describes the electromagnetic radiation emitted when a charged particle, giving off energy, moves faster than light through a transparent medium. The temperatures of the capsules are as high as 330 degrees Fahrenheit. The pool of water serves as a shield against radiation; a human standing one foot from an unshielded capsule would receive a lethal dose of radiation in less than 10 seconds. Hanford is among the most contaminated sites in the United States.

*Cryopreservation Unit*

*Cryonics Institute*

*Clinton Township, Michigan*

*This cryopreservation unit holds the bodies of Rhea and Elaine Ettinger, the mother and first wife of cryonics pioneer, Robert Ettinger. Robert, author of The Prospect of Immortality and Man into Superman is still alive.*

The Cryonics Institute offers cryostasis (freezing) services for individuals and pets upon death. Cryostasis is practiced with the hope that lives will ultimately be extended through future developments in science, technology and medicine. When, and if, these developments occur, Institute members hope to be awakened to an extended life in good health and free from disease or the aging process. Cryostasis must begin immediately upon legal death. A person or pet is infused with ice-preventive substances and quickly cooled to a temperature where physical decay virtually stops.

The Cryonics Institute charges \$28,000 for the process if it is planned well in advance of legal death and \$35,000 on shorter notice.

*Hymenoplasty  
Cosmetic Surgery, P.A.  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

The patient in this photograph is 21 years old. She is of Palestinian descent and living in the United States. In order to adhere to cultural and familial expectations regarding her virginity and marriage, she underwent hymenoplasty. Without it she feared she would be rejected by her future husband and bring shame upon her family. She flew in secret to Florida where the operation was performed by Dr. Bernard Stern, a plastic surgeon she located on the Internet. The purpose of hymenoplasty is to reconstruct a ruptured hymen, the membrane which partially covers the opening of the vagina. It is an outpatient procedure which takes approximately 30 minutes and can be done under local or intravenous anesthesia. Dr. Stern charges \$3,500 for hymenoplasty. He also performs labiaplasty and vaginal rejuvenation.

*Jury Simulation, Deliberation Room with Two-Way Mirror  
DOAR Litigation Consulting  
Lynbrook, New York*

*Director of Jury Consultation, David Klein, and Vice President of Jury Consulting, James Dobson, monitor and analyze mock trial proceedings and jury deliberations in order to assist their clients in developing effective trial strategies.*

Mock juries are an integral part of litigation consulting, a little-known professional field with annual profits of approximately \$3 billion. The estimated cost of a single jury simulation is \$60,000.

Jurors for DOAR simulations are jury eligible individuals from the jurisdiction where the actual case will be tried. They are recruited to accurately reflect the socio-demographic backgrounds of that jurisdiction's population.

*The Hoh Rain Forest, Understory and Forest Structure  
Olympic National Park, Washington*

*Tangle of branches and mosses including: Sitka Spruce, Vine Maple, Bigleaf Maple, Western Hemlock and understory of Sword Fern.*

The Hoh Rain Forest is the largest, intact, preserved coastal temperate rain forest in the world. It is considered to be the wettest spot in the continental U.S., receiving 140 to 167 inches (12 to 14 feet) of rain per year. Located within Olympic National Park, the Hoh is fully protected from commercial exploitation. Rain forest beyond the park's borders has been logged heavily over the past century.

The Pacific Yew, indigenous to the region and once considered an insignificant tree, was recently discovered to harbor Taxol, a naturally occurring compound that is now being used to treat ovarian, breast, and lung cancer.

*Playboy, Braille Edition*  
*Playboy Enterprises, Inc.*  
*New York, New York*

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), a division of the U.S. Library of Congress, provides a free national library program of Braille and recorded materials for blind and physically handicapped persons. Magazines included in the NLS's programs are selected on the basis of demonstrated reader interest. This includes the publishing and distribution of a Braille edition of Playboy.

Approximately 10 million American adults read Playboy every month, with 3 million obtaining it through paid circulation. It has included articles by writers such as Norman Mailer, Vladimir Nabokov, Philip Roth, Joyce Carol Oates, and Kurt Vonnegut and conducted interviews with Salvador Dali, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Malcolm X.

*The Central Intelligence Agency, Art*  
*CIA Original Headquarters Building*  
*Langley, Virginia*

The Fine Arts Commission of the CIA is responsible for acquiring art to display in the Agency's buildings. Among the Commission's curated art are two pieces (pictured) by Thomas Downing, on long-term loan from the Vincent Melzac Collection. Downing was a member of the Washington Color School, a group of post-World War II painters whose influence helped to establish the city as a center for arts and culture. Vincent Melzac was a private collector of abstract art and the Administrative Director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.'s premier art museum.

Since its founding in 1947, the Agency has participated in both covert and public cultural diplomacy efforts throughout the world. It is speculated that some of the CIA's involvement in the arts was designed to counter Soviet Communism by helping to popularize what it considered pro-American thought and aesthetic sensibilities. Such involvement has raised historical questions about certain art forms or styles that may have elicited the interest of the Agency, including Abstract Expressionism.

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Contraband Room*  
*John F. Kennedy International Airport*  
*Queens, New York*

*African cane rats infested with maggots, African yams (dioscorea), Andean potatoes, Bangladeshi cucurbit plants, bush meat, cherimoya fruit, curry leaves (murraya), dried orange peels, fresh eggs, giant African snail, impala skull cap, jackfruit seeds, June plum, kola nuts, mango, okra, passion fruit, pig nose, pig mouths, pork, raw poultry (chicken), South American pig head, South American tree tomatoes, South Asian lime infected with citrus canker, sugar cane (poaceae), uncooked meats, unidentified sub tropical plant in soil.*

All items in the photograph were seized from the baggage of passengers arriving in the United States at JFK Terminal 4 from abroad over a 48-hour period. They are identified, dissected, and then either ground up or incinerated. JFK processes more international passengers than any other airport in the United States.



## Emily Jacir

Emily Jacir (b. 1970, Kuwait) has been nominated for her exhibition *Material for a film* (2004 – ongoing) at the Venice Biennale 2007.

*Material for a film* retraces the life of the Palestinian intellectual Wael Zuaiter who was assassinated by Israeli agents in Rome in 1972. Presented as an open-ended multimedia installation, Zuaiter's life is told through photographs, film clippings, maps and written documents such as newspapers, notes and letters. A selection of works from the original installation in Venice is now presented here as part of the Photography Prize. The project reflects Jacir's ongoing concern with issues of historical amnesia, resistance and the logic of the archive.

### Captions for works (left to right)

Selected images from the multimedia installation *Material for a film* (2004 – ongoing)

3 sound pieces, 1 video, texts, photos, archival material

This work was devised also with the support of La Biennale di Venezia.

Courtesy of Alexander and Bonin, New York and Anthony Reynolds Gallery, London

1. Coin found in a white envelope on which Janet had written in blue pen:

Coin used for lift by Wael.

Monete Wael addoperava per l'ascensore.

Wael kept this coin on a string to use for the coin-operated elevator in his building.

2. Wael's books.

The Arab League in Rome apparently has all of Wael's Arabic books. Each time I came to Rome, Janet and I called the Arab League so I could document the books but no one ever returned our calls or helped us.

3. Wael Zuaiter's *A Thousand and One Nights*, volume II.

Wael's dream was to translate *A Thousand and One Nights* directly from Arabic into Italian. He had been working on this project since his arrival in Italy. To this day an Italian translation from the Arabic does not exist, all the Italian translations are from other translations.

The night Wael was killed he had a volume 2 of the book in his pocket. Twelve of the bullets entered his body but there was a thirteenth bullet that pierced through the book and got lodged in its spine.

4. Janet Venn Brown's notes.

Front: Names of the Mossad agents who carried out the assassination.

Back: Practicing Arabic.

5. Alberto Moravia, Wael Zuaiter with journalists at the Hilton in Kuwait City.

Naila Zuaiter is seated behind Wael. Studio Sakoob, 1971

Moravia was invited to a symposium on Palestine and Wael accompanied him. According to Naila, Moravia and all the other Europeans who participated in the symposium found it odd to be in such a rich place to discuss the Palestine issue. They used to say that they would have been happier if the symposium had been held in a Palestinian Refugee camp.

After the symposium, Wael organized a tour for Moravia and took him to al Basra in Iraq as well as Syria and Lebanon.

## **Print Sales – Guy Tillim (First Floor)**

Print Sales at The Photographers' Gallery is pleased to introduce and offer for sale, Guy Tillim's most recent body of work, *Avenue Patrice Lumumba*

Traveling through several countries in Africa including Angola, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo, *Avenue Patrice Lumumba* reflects on the civic architecture conceived in the last years of colonialism and the immediate post-colonial period in Africa. In the French and Portuguese colonies in particular, modernist architecture was used expressly to convey the ideology of the era. The colonial vision was flawed, and the structures were a strange and fragile hybrid of aspirations and ideas that were not necessarily applicable to Africa. However, through subsequent shifts in power this architecture has been absorbed into the African landscape, and today these buildings and civic spaces are an integral component of contemporary African culture.

Tillim, in his photography, resists focusing on the formalism of the architecture and instead considers its changing use over the past half-century. He also resists viewing the buildings reductively as symbols of domination or as representative of the general decay of African institutions, but rather seeks to acknowledge the complexity of their histories.

Guy Tillim is a widely respected and established photographer based in South Africa. He has received numerous awards and grants recognising his accomplishments.

### **List of works (left to right)**

All works printed on cotton rag archival paper. Prices from €2300 + VAT

*Administration office, Department of Commerce Antsiranana, Madagascar, 2007*

*Apartment Building, Avenue Bagamoyo, Beira Mozambique, 2008*

*Library Sports Club, Kolwezi DR Congo, 2007*

*High School Lubumbashi DR Congo, 2007*

*Apartment Building Avenue Kwame Nkrumah, Maputo Mozambique, 2007*

*Typing Pool Town Hall Likasi, DR Congo, 2007*

*Grande Hotel Beira, Mozambique, 2008*

### **In Print Sales Viewing Room (Third Floor)**

*Court records, Lubumbashi DR Congo, 2007*

*Old landing exchange, Post Office, Lubumbashi DR Congo, 2007*

*Maputo Mozambique, 2007*

## Visitor Information

### Visit Us At

16 – 18 Ramillies Street

London, W1F 7LW

Nearest tube: Oxford Circus (Bakerloo, Victoria, Central Lines)



### Admission Free

Tel: 0845 262 1618

Email: [info@photonet.org.uk](mailto:info@photonet.org.uk)

Visit: [www.photonet.org.uk](http://www.photonet.org.uk)

### Opening times

Mon: Closed

Tues, Wed, Sat: 11.00 – 18.00

Thurs & Fri: 11.00 – 20.00

Sun: 12.00 – 18.00

### Late-Night Opening

The Gallery is open until 20.00 on Thursday and Friday nights

### Print Sales

Print Sales presents its own programme of curated displays and portfolios of over forty photographers living and working in the UK. All works are for sale.

To find out more about the photographers represented by Print Sales please visit [www.photonet.org.uk](http://www.photonet.org.uk) or call +44 (0)20 7087 9321 or email: [printsales@photonet.org.uk](mailto:printsales@photonet.org.uk)

### Membership

£35 annual membership / £30 concession and direct debit annual membership

Associate Membership is available for £135 per year.

To find out more contact the Membership Officer: Rummana Naqvi

Call: 0845 262 1618 Email: [membership@photonet.org.uk](mailto:membership@photonet.org.uk)

### Bookshop

With a reputation as one of the best photography bookshops in Europe, the bookshop stocks over 5,000 titles, subjects include comprehensive selection of monographs, technical, new media, and theory and criticism as well as limited edition and signed copies. The Bookshop also stocks exhibition catalogues published by The Photographers' Gallery.