

PRESSRELEASE

Annet Gelink Gallery proudly presents the work 'The Hero (for Antonio)', by Marina Abramovic (Belgrade, 1946).

This 16-mm b/w film shows a proud white stallion with a rider, in whose right hand is a flag. An old partisan song can be heard in the background, sung by a woman in a Slavic language. Horse and rider stand stock-still in a hilly landscape. It's as if they have been frozen on the battlefield, just before or just after the battle has taken place. The only things that move are the fluttering flag, the horse's mane and the rider's hair. The rider is not a man however, as one would expect, but Abramovic herself. She does not sit haughtily in the saddle with her chest expanded, as a rider in a classical equestrian statue, but she is somewhat bent over. And the flag she carries with such difficulty is not the proud symbol of her country but a white flag, the sign of submission.

The work came about during the summer of 2001 and was commissioned by the Fundación NMAC, Montanmedio Arte Contemporaneo in Spain. Marina Abramovic was invited there with nine other artists, among them Maurizio Cattelan, Anya Gallaccio and Sol Le Witt, to carry out a site-specific project. NMAC is an initiative of Jimena Blázquez Abascal; its goal is to create a dialogue between art and nature. The Montanmedio estate is a nature reserve, and the artists were asked to base their work on the area's natural resources.

In addition to this work, Abramovic also produced the work 'Human Nests' in Montanmedio. She went to an old stone quarry and made seven holes at varying heights in the quarry's steep walls. The holes, which are just large enough to accommodate a sitting human figure, can serve as resting places during a journey or an escape. They offer protection, but they also provide a sense of vulnerability to whoever sits in them. The deep concentration that is required to enable one to sit there at such a great height creates a heightened awareness of the here and now.

At the moment the work of Marina Abramovic is shown at the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, DC (solo) until 18 February 2002 at the Triennale Yokohama, Japan (cur. Nabuo Nakamura).

The Bakery

In The Bakery, Artimo presents 'Forest Time' an art book by Erik Wesselo (Den Bosch 1964), with music by Will Oldham (Louisville, Kentucky, 1965).

Erik Wesselo has been making photographs for years. Most of these are polaroids of the landscapes that constitute the scenery for his beautiful but disturbing 16-mm films, such as *Backward* (1997), *Düffels Möll* (1997) and *Isostar* (1998). The landscapes appear quite lovely and peaceful at first glance, but after awhile the viewer is overtaken by an ominous feeling. What is it about this little piece of nature? What happened here? Wesselo brings these photos together as a complete series of ten landscapes for the first time.

The book is accompanying by music written by the American singer/songwriter Will Oldham. Oldham is the man behind *Palace Music*, *The Palace Brothers* and *Palace*. At a very early age Oldham was already acting in a number of feature films. His collaboration with Wesselo was difficult but special. After two years, Oldham, who had by then become an extremely hip underground musician, came up with a beautiful, melancholy eight-minute piece of film music. This was transferred to an old-fashioned ten-inch gramophone record – living material, unlike the digital recordings now commonly in use. Visitors to the exhibition can listen to the music by means of headphones.

Erik Wesselo completed the second stage of the 'Ateliers' study programme in Arnhem in 1995. He has lived and worked in New York since 2000. His work has been accepted by several important collections abroad. Wesselo's latest film, *She did it again*, 2001, is being shown simultaneously with this exhibition at the Witte de With in Rotterdam and the Galerie Yvon Lambert in Paris.

The exhibition runs from 12 January through 16 February 2002. The opening is 12 January, from 5 pm to 7 pm. The Annet Gelink Gallery is open Tuesday through Friday, from 11 am to 7 pm, and on Saturdays from 1 pm to 5 pm. For more information, please contact Danila Cahen or Anika Ohlerich.