

Press release:

## Chinese Whispers



Mladen Stilinoviĉ *An Artist Who Cannot Speak English is No Artist* 1994-2000

Curated by:

Ana Deviĉ and Branka Stipanĉiĉ

October 11 - November 11, 2000

The title of the exhibition, *Chinese Whispers*, after a children's game, is a metaphor for misreading a message. The exhibition questions the interaction of individual acts of communication within social contexts and focuses on situations when messages are misunderstood due to cultural and language barriers, or their meaning is lost due to noise in the channel. Misinterpretation usually generates further confusion and communication breakdown, but can also provide new, sometimes unusual perspectives and may even, paradoxically, lead to better understanding.

In this gap flourishes the art of Yuri Leiderman (Moscow), Kai Kaljo (Tallinn), Ivana Keser (Zagreb), Vlado Martek (Zagreb), Dalibor Martinis (Zagreb), Tomo Saviĉ-Gecan (Zagreb/Amsterdam), Roman Ondák (Bratislava), Mladen Stilinoviĉ (Zagreb), Slaven Tolj (Dubrovnik), Goran Trbuljak (Zagreb), and Sislej Xhafa (Tirana/Pisa/New York), artists featured in this exhibition, all of whom come from countries in transition in Central and Eastern Europe. Their installations, textual, video and audio works are defined by their own experience and the context in which they were made. By placing themselves in various contexts, faced with distortion and misapprehension, the artists rely on humor, irony or the absurd. In a juxtaposition of different worlds that daily become more vocal in proclaiming their growing closeness, while in fact they understand each other less and less drifting further apart, many of these artists opt for self-irony in their communication, never bitter, but rather gentle, witty, perspicuous, analytical, critical ... conciliatory in their willingness to continue the game of Chinese whispers.



Roman Ondák *Antinomads*, 2000



A brochure containing an essay by Ana Deviĉ and Branka Stipanĉiĉ will be available free of charge.

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