

# PASSPORTS

## Globalisation in Contemporary European Video

January 8 – March 10, 2013

Lewis Glucksman Gallery  
University College Cork

**Ursula Biemann and Angela Sanders, Michael Fortune, Thierry Geoffroy / Colonel, Kai Kaljo, Antti Laitinen, Maria Lusitano, and Nada Prlja**

**Curated by Chris Clarke**



Antti Laitinen, **Voyage**, 2008,  
Courtesy of the artist and Nettie Horn Gallery, London

What does it mean to be Irish, French, Bosnian, Swiss, or European in an increasingly globalised world? As the borders between countries within Europe have opened up to facilitate free trade, tourism and migration, ideas of national identity have been transformed, allowing for a greater understanding of different cultures, or, in some cases, a return to virulent nationalism.

As Ireland undertakes the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, a new exhibition **PASSPORTS** at the Lewis Glucksman Gallery presents a timely reflection on Europe as seen through the eyes of eight contemporary artists. Curator Chris Clarke has selected video works that span the continent to explore the idea of a 'borderless' Europe, and the shifts caused by globalisation, migration and cultural exchange.

In **Ursula Biemann and Angela Sander's** documentary *Europlex*, the routes of cross-border traffic between Spain and Morocco are investigated through the activities of three sets of workers: smugglers, domestic servants, and labourers who manufacture goods in North Africa for the European market. The trade between people and commodities is also the subject of work by **Thierry Geoffroy / Colonel**. Originally made for television, the video follows the artist as he induces passing residents to exchange their Danish items – milk, money and even air – for those of their immigrant neighbours.

This playful approach informs **Antti Laitinen's** *Voyage*, in which the artist constructed and sailed a mobile island paradise across an expanse of open water. In charting an individual route from one location to another, the video recalls the ways in which designated borders are challenged and subverted. In **Michael Fortune's** work, he recalls how Welsh television transmissions were picked up by Irish airdrops in Rosslare Harbour, while the exchange of postcards, home movies and letters between Portugal and its former colonial outpost in Mozambique is explored in Maria Lusitano's video *Nostalgia*.

The sudden shift of borders caused by wider geopolitical events is revealed in the work of **Kai Kaljo**. The precarious position of artists in post-Soviet Estonia, struggling against Western preconceptions of Eastern European culture, is addressed in her work, pithily entitled *Loser*. Similarly, for the artist Nada Prlja, born in Bosnia, raised in Macedonia and based in London, this impulsion to adapt to Western European expectations is provocatively challenged; she literally effaces the word 'East' written on one side of her face, leaving only the imprint of the 'West' on the other.

## Notes on the artists and the exhibition:

**PASSPORTS** includes an educational space with a large scale map of the world that invites visitors to design and display a personalised flag. Geographic and national identities can be re-imagined based on individual histories. What would the flag of someone with dual nationality look like? Or an Irish emigrant on mainland Europe? What would your flag look like? Come to the Glucksman to find out!

**Perspectives** is a series of lunchtime talks that explores the question of “where do we go from here?” Featuring **PASSPORTS** artists Nada Prlja, Michael Fortune and Maria Lusitano, this series looks at how ideas of location and movement influence their artistic practices.

**PASSPORTS** features work by the Irish artist Michael Fortune, whose video *Foreign Stations* was commissioned by Wexford County Council’s Per Cent for Art Programme and made through collaboration and engagement with various people in the Rosslare Harbour area.

Thierry Geoffroy, who works under the name Colonel, originally made his video *Cultural Exchanges* as part of a series of short televised interventions on the Danish channel DR. Some of his videos have been seen by over 400,000 viewers.

Antti Laitinen has been selected to exhibit his work as part of the Finnish Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2013. **PASSPORTS** artists have previously exhibited in prestigious international exhibitions including Ursula Biemann at the 2004 Liverpool Biennial, Maria Lusitano at Manifesta 5 in San Sebastian, Spain, Nada Prlja at the 2012 Berlin Biennial, and Kai Kaljo in the touring exhibition *Transitland: Video Art from Central and Eastern Europe 1989-2009*.

It is possible to arrange for press interviews with the curator and some of the participating artists. For further discussion of the exhibition, press images or more detailed information, please contact:

Chris Clarke, Curator of Education & Collections at [c.clarke@ucc.ie](mailto:c.clarke@ucc.ie) or +353 21 4901821.  
Lewis Glucksman Gallery, University College Cork, Ireland.

### Notes on events in the exhibition:

The Lewis Glucksman Gallery makes great art available to everyone. A wide range of events and activities are programme for all abilities throughout the exhibition run.

You can view the entire season in our **seasonal brochure** at <http://glucksman.org/CurrentBrochure.pdf>

### For an expert audience:

**Perspectives:** Where do we go from here?

Nada Prlja: 1pm Thursday 14 February

Michael Fortune: 1pm Thursday 21 February

Maria Lusitano: 1pm Thursday 7 March

<http://www.glucksman.org/perspectives.html>

### For families:

**Family Sundays:** making art together

3-4pm, Sundays throughout exhibition run

<http://www.glucksman.org/familysundays.html>

### To get creative in the gallery:

**Saturday Sketchbook:** Art Classes for all

11am – 1pm, Saturdays, 26 January – 2 March

<http://www.glucksman.org/SaturdaySketchbook.html>

### Gallery opening hours:

Tue – Sat: 10 – 5

Sun: 2 – 5

Closed Mondays

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