

REENA SPAULINGS FINE ART
165 EAST BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10002

212 477-5006
371_grand@earthlink.net
www.reenaspaulings.com

Shadi Habib Allah

The King and the Jester

September 12 – October 17, 2010

Reena Spaulings Fine Art is pleased to present *The King and the Jester*, a new video work by Shadi Habib Allah.

The King and the Jester was shot over two weeks at Perfect Auto Paint and Body Shop in Liberty City, Miami where Habib Allah once resided. Habib Allah records the languages and power relations between workers in the shop, although some encounters were scripted. There is a poetry to certain phrases he manages to capture: "You lost internal doubt"; "Harder harder I can't feel it"; "Please emergency"; "Do my feet right now"; "Get this clean right here"; "Then we just go in with the decoration, you know." There are sounds of powertools and images of their delicate handling. A car is being painted. The boss needs a strong hand to rub his feet.

Shadi Habib Allah was born in Jerusalem, Palestine in 1977, and received a BFA from Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in 2003. His interdisciplinary practice, primarily involving sculpture and video, is informed by ideas on structural and material degeneration. He was twice awarded 2nd Prize for the Young Artist Award from the A.M. Qattan Foundation, and has attended residencies at Cittadelarte, Fondazione Pistoletto in Biella, Italy and Gasworks in London, England. He has participated in exhibitions at the Riwaq Biennale, Ramallah, Tate Modern, London, and recently Palestine c/o Venice at the Venice Biennale. He recently received an MFA in Visual Arts from Columbia University.

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Artist Statement

My artistic practice, including installation, video and photography; begins with a meticulous mapping out of different subjective interests in a given topic. Through the examination of our relationships to systems of infrastructure, class identification and hierarchies of authority, I rework existing structures or make images of images in ways that eventually erase or replace the original, until it is unclear what is original and what is the copy. Anecdotes with an air of humor, born of skepticism for power systems including the art world, function as a pretext for more complex topics. My work is not about the object or the artifact itself. It is about the reconstruction or subversion of existing objects. In this way, my practice questions received ideas of use and value and the power structures that hold them in place.

Shadi Habib Allah

SHADI HABIB ALLAH

EDUCATION

- 2010 MFA, School of the Arts, Columbia University, New York
2003 BFA, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 *The King & The Jester*, Reena Spaulings Fine Art, New York
2006 *An Ongoing Tale*, sponsored by A.M. Qattan Foundation, Al-Hajaj Gallery, Ramallah
2005 *99*, Nashashibi Center, Jerusalem
2004 *Untitled 2004*, sponsored by A.M. Qattan Foundation, Al-Hajaj Gallery, Ramallah

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2010 *Police the Police*, Young Artists' Biennial, Bucharest
B-Sides, 6-8 Months, New York
MFA Thesis Exhibition, Fisher Landau Center For Art, New York
2009 *First International Video Art & Multimedia Festival of Ramallah*, Ramallah
Palestine c/o Venice, Venice Biennale, Venice
The Thousand and One Nights, Postmasters Gallery, New York
First Year MFA Exhibition, Wallach Gallery, Columbia University, New York
2008 *Twisted Reality*, Center for Digital Art, Holon
2007 *Riwaq Biennale installation*, Sakakini Gallery, Ramallah
In Focus, Tate Modern, London
2005 *Unidee in Progress*, Cittadellarte, Biella, Italy
2003 *Graduates Exhibition*, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Jerusalem

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RESIDENCIES AND AWARDS

- 2008 Graduate Scholarship, Hani Qaddumi Scholarship Foundation
- 2006 Residency at Gasworks Studios, London
2nd Prize, The Young Artists Award, A.M. Qattan Foundation, Ramallah
- 2005 Residency at Cittadellarte, Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella, Italy
- 2004 2nd Prize, The Young Artists Award, A.M. Qattan Foundation, Ramallah