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Event: Wherever We Go: Art, Identity, Cultures in Transit

Location: Walter and McBean Galleries
San Francisco Art Institute
800 Chestnut Street
San Francisco

Opening reception: Thursday, 10 May 2007, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Cost: Free and open to the public

Exhibition Dates:

–Phase 1: 11 May–7 July 2007

–Phase 2: 20 July–15 September 2007

Images: High-resolution digital images available

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Phase 1 of Wherever We Go: Art, Identity, Cultures in Transit Opens at SFAI on 10 May

San Francisco, CA (April 25, 2007)—On Thursday, 10 May 2007 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the opening reception for Wherever We Go: Art, Identity, Cultures in Transit will be held at the Walter and McBean Galleries. Phase one of the exhibition will be on view Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. through Saturday, 7 July.

In Wherever We Go: Art, Identity, Cultures in Transit, the concept of identity—like the artists in the exhibition themselves—has taken leave, at least partially, of its origins. For here identity is defined in terms not so much of geographical roots as of cultural experiences and relationships. Informed by subtle reflections on this mutating concept, each of the works in the exhibition is the fruit of a reflection-action that recounts things about the place where its maker was born, but also about where he or she now lives. Thus, identities are represented and exemplified as no longer fixed once and for all, but as floating free, as resisting the urge to be oversimplified and boxed

in. This process also makes a significant impact on the transformation of each locality the migrants travel to and settle in.

An open field for comparisons and a *mise-en-scène* of crucial contemporary questions, *Wherever We Go* is curated by Hou Hanru and Gabi Scardi and first premiered in October 2006 at the Spazio Oberdan in Milan. Presented in association with the Province of Milan and the Museo della Fotografia Contemporanea, the exhibition comprises fifty works by twenty-three artists.

The artists for phase one are Adel Abdessemed; Yael Bartana; Banu Cennetoglu; Latifa Echakhch; Ni Haifeng; Huang Yong-Ping; Mella Jaarsma; Koo Jeong-A; Tsuyoshi Ozawa; Adrian Paci; Shen Yuan; and Nari Ward.

The artists for phase two are Nindityo Adipurnomo; Kristine Alksne; Maria Thereza Alves; Keren Amiran; Carlos Amorales; Maja Bajevic and Danica Dakic; Magali Claude; H. H. Lim; Elena Nemkova; and Pascale Marthine Tayou.

The exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue containing color photographs and biographies of the artists as well as critical essays by Elvan Zabunyan, Gilane Tawadros, Pier Luigi Tazzi, and the two curators.

Support for Wherever We Go has been provided by Paule Anglim and Deitch Projects, New York. SFAI's exhibitions and public programs are supported in part by the Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.

San Francisco Art Institute

Founded in 1871, SFAI is one of the oldest and most prestigious schools of higher education in contemporary art in the US. Focusing on the relation between thinking, making, and learning, SFAI's academic and public programs are dedicated to excellence and diversity.

SFAI's School of Studio Practice is centered on the development of the artist's vision through studio-based experiments and the understanding that the artist is an essential part of society. It offers a BFA, an MFA, and a Post-Baccalaureate certificate in Design+Technology, Film, New Genres, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, and Sculpture.

SFAI's School of Interdisciplinary Studies is motivated by the premise that critical thinking and writing—informed by an in-depth understanding of theory and practice—are essential for engaging global society. It offers degree programs in History and Theory of Contemporary Art (BA and MA), Urban Studies (BA and MA), and Exhibition and Museum Studies (MA only).

For more information about this exhibition and other programs at SFAI, please go to www.sfai.edu.