

CROSSING EUROPE Filmfestival Linz / 24 – 29 April 2007 / www.crossingEurope.at

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In Between Dream and Trauma

CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2007 with Sejla Kamberic and Marc Recha

The fourth edition of the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz from 24 to 29 April 2007 dedicates two of its most prominent programme slots to unusual artists. Together with the O.K Center for Contemporary Art, the festival of young European cinema presents the Bosnian artist Sejla Kamberic as Artist in Residence and shows work by the Catalan filmmaker Marc Recha as this year's Tribute.

Tribute to Marc Recha

As in past years, CROSSING EUROPE once again invites the audience to discover a unique European director with a representative tribute. The tribute of the fourth edition of the festival focuses on the Catalan director and screenwriter **Marc Recha**.

Born in a working class suburb of Barcelona in 1970, the self-taught filmmaker acquired his cinematic knowledge in cinemateques and cinemas, taking his first steps in film when he was only eleven years old. With his first camera he produced 14 Super-8 short films just in the period from 1984 to 1988, before moving to 35mm format, in which he produced six more short films by 2001.

El cielo sube in 1991 was Recha's first feature-length film. The next feature film in 2001, *Pau i el seu germà/Pau And His Brother*, was shown in Cannes and contributed to the director's growing renown.

His most recent work, *Dies d'Agost/August Days*, premiered in Locarno in the competition in 2006, once again proving Recha's mastery of blurring the boundaries between fiction and documentary. In the semi-autobiographical road movie, Recha works not only behind the camera, but also in front of it together with his brother David. The acoustic off-screen narrative follows the two brothers seeking traces of the golden age of Catalonia before the civil war and fascism, while the landscapes they pass through are impressively featured.

Artist in Residence 2007: Sejla Kamberic

From the first year of the festival CROSSING EUROPE, every year the festival and the **O.K Center for Contemporary Art** together host an artist who crosses the borders between film and fine art as Artist in Residence. This year **Sejla Kamberic** has accepted an invitation to come to Linz. The work by this artist, who was born in 1976 in Sarajevo and grew up there, consists of photos, videos and actions in public space, centering around coming to terms with the four-year siege of her home city. In the confrontation with the horrors of war and its consequences, the trained graphic designer follows a line that is both utopian and escapist, but also cynically aggressive at the same time, thus moving literally in between dream and trauma. Kamberic, who was art director in the creative team Fabrika in Italy from 1997 to 2000, attracted international attention with an extensive campaign in 2003. In this she posed in immaculate beauty for the camera and projected onto the picture the racist graffiti from a UNPROFOR soldier stationed in Bosnia: "No teeth? A mustache? Smel like shit? Bosnian Girl!". Her criticism of Western Europe's indifferent attitude towards Bosnia, empty political rhetoric and violently drawn borders is just as radical.

In Linz she will present, among other works, her new 15-minute short film *What Do I Know About Love?*
Following the presentation at CROSSING EUROPE, one work from the edition will become the property of the
Erste Bank, which has purchased the work for the collection – www.kontakt-collection.net – and thus
substantially supported Sejla Kameric's production.
www.sejlakameric.com

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