

## Young Ladies, Old Chaps, and Some Thai Friends

curated by Pier Luigi Tazzi

Bethan Huws  
Noguchi Rika  
Merve Berkman

Boris Mikhailov  
Tsai Ming Liang

Pattara Chanruechachai  
Jirayu Rengjaras

### >> Press Release

Galleria SpazioA's first show of the season, a project curated by **Pier Luigi Tazzi**, opens on **26 September 2009 (4pm)**.

*YOUNG LADIES, OLD CHAPS, AND SOME THAI FRIENDS* is a haiku, a short story, a tale told through pictures and objects, which are works of art, in the form of an exhibition in an art gallery in a provincial Italian city. The resulting show, starting from the decentralized zone in which it takes place, looks at the world and its unexhausted richness, a richness made up of multiplicities and differences. It does so by bringing together a series of gazes, those of the participating artists, who belong to different generations and cultures, and have very different personal and professional backgrounds. They all speak for themselves but at the same time reflect, as in an opaque mirror, their own respective origins and life stories, and likewise what they quite manifestly are now, with everything being seen from a distance by those who have left their land of origin behind them, and from close up by those who have maintained close contact with their roots. Their gazes come from the margins and not from the centrality of a privileged vantage point according to the models of mainstream culture. There is the female gaze of **Bethan Huws** (born in Bangor, Wales in 1961, who divides her time between Paris and Berlin), **Noguchi Rika** (born in Saitama, Japan, in 1971, who lives in Berlin) and **Merve Berkman** (born in Istanbul in 1977, where she currently lives). There are those of artists who come from areas that once were marginal until contemporary art culture and practices exploded all over the planet, erasing borders and bringing down barriers, and which, despite have been influenced by the Great Real World, by a now declining West, observe that world and its past deformities and contradictions with a quiet melancholy that is expressed in their work: **Boris Mikhailov**, who was born in 1938 in Kharkov, when it was still part of the Soviet Union, and divides his time between his city of origin, now in the Ukraine, and Berlin; **Tsai Ming Liang**, who was born in 1957 in Kuching in Malaysia, and has lived for most of his life in Taiwan, where he still resides, though he has recently spent long periods in France and in his country of origin. Then there is the fresh, previously unseen, almost new-born gaze of individuals who have found in art a means of belonging to a world in which their presence, by virtue of their origin and its history, would not previously even have been envisaged, but who have now made it their own with enormous effort and happy enthusiasm: **Pattara Chanruechachai**, born in 1971 in Bangkok, who divides his time between Bangkok and a small town in northern Brittany; and **Jirayu Rengjaras**, born in the first half of the 80s in the Isan province of Kalasin in north-east Thailand, who lives there and in Hong Kong.

The exhibition features vitrines, watercolours and ready-mades (all works by Huws), photographs realized in a range of techniques (Mikhailov, Noguchi, Chanruechachai, Berkman), a film installation (Tsai) and pairings between paintings, produced by the artist, and photographs taken by others (Rengjaras).

(PLT)

Special thanks to Thierry Hauch, kunst Merano arte, Cooperativa Murri, Maria Vittoria Della Pina, Valerio Dehò, Shimabuku, Stijn Huijts and Lene ter Haar.

opening: **Saturday 26 September 2009, h 16.00**

via Amati 13, Pistoia

until 21 November 2009, Tuesday - Saturday h. 15.30 - 19.30