

A LAND WITHOUT PEOPLE FOR A PEOPLE WITHOUT LAND

Nuno Coelho

The exhibition "A Land Without People for a People Without Land" is comprised of large format posters, each with a black and white outline illustration, which visitors are invited to colour using the coloured pencils provided. Once again, Nuno Coelho is exploring the familiar concepts of his work such as the use of vernacular cultural reference and viewer interaction through print media. The posters display various maps and graphics, and also include material directly taken from photographs collected by the artist during a month long trip to Palestine in 2006, during which he had the opportunity to explore and research the complex situation in the region.

In this exhibition, Nuno Coelho produces a visual discourse around the social tensions of daily life in this region where three continents collide, and proposes a new approach to exploring the Arab-Israeli conflict. This discourse is critical, but it is also ironic, and playfully exposes the absurdity in the current situation. This concept of the absurd is emphasized by the appropriation of infantile language and iconography, used to illustrate the reality of the current sociopolitical situation. The work demonstrates the opinion of the artist that although there is a global discourse surrounding Palestine, few people can reach beyond shock images and headlines engineered by the Media and understand the basic principles of the conflict.

The work also invites us to question whether it is possible for an artwork to have immense political focus without becoming one-sided, or attempting to be transgressive, subversive or an act of political activism. Arguably, denying philosophy is in itself a philosophical act, and so perhaps even attempting to create artwork that avoids dealing directly with politics is intrinsically to take a definite political position. An exhibition catalogue is available, comprised of miniature prints of each of the posters featured in the exhibition. Each edition is accompanied by a box of coloured pencils. Catalogues will be limited edition, each one numbered and signed by the artist.

2nd to 24th November, 2007

Wed to Sat, 2 to 6 pm