

CONTEMPORARY ART & SOUND SERIES

FORMER STATE PENITENTIARY OF VALÈRE, SION, SWITZERLAND

1-4 May 2003 | 3pm-10pm

Main Hall and Cells of the Former State Penitentiary

From Thursday May 1 to Sunday May 4, 2003, Dolmen will be presenting its 2003 Contemporary Art & Sound Event inside the former State Penitentiary of Valère, Sion, Switzerland. Specialised in visual and musical avant-garde projects since 1999, Dolmen aims at creating favourable conditions where artists and musicians can meet and develop collective works within unusual environments. *In situ* interventions factor in the peculiar history and acoustics of the chosen sites.

Related experience has been since conducted in such places as the biggest underground lake in Europe (St. Leonard, 1999), inside the tubular-shaped galleries of the world's heaviest dam (Grande-Dixence, 2000), within the impressive inner room of a former Jesuits Church (Sion, 2001), beneath the glass roof of the Geneva Centre of Contemporary Art (2001), and in the untouched open space of a reserve (Derborence, 2002).

This year, Dolmen pushes the concept further through a "sound and image" siege of a former prison. First, recent works from eighteen leading international artists will be exhibited: Haluk Akakce (UK/USA), Olaf Breuning (CH/USA), Daniela Grüniger (CH), as well as selected photographs from the prestigious contemporary art collection LAC-Switzerland, including Nobuyoshi Araki (Tokyo), David Armstrong (USA), Larry Clark (USA), Tracey Emin (UK), Walker Evans (USA), Robert Gober (USA), Nan Goldin (USA), Damien Hirst (UK), Mike Kelley (USA), Zoe Leonard (USA), Sarah Lucas (UK), Gordon Matta-Clark (USA), Paul McCarthy (USA), Richard Prince (USA), Wolfgang Tillmans (GER). Second, the event brings together twelve cutting-edge music performers: Yan Castelli (CH), Patrick Donzé (CH), Erikm (F), Andy Guhl (CH), Charlotte Hug (CH), Richard Jean (CH), Tomas Korber (CH), Sachiko M (JAP), Günter Müller (CH), Toshi Nakamura (JAP), Yoshihide Otomo (JAP), and Frédérick Quennoz (CH).

Visitors will be induced to stroll about the place, confronting to its actuality together with a live critical analysis led by the invited artists. The exhibition will open its doors to the public on May 1 at 6pm and will feature performance every day at random hours. An official ceremony will be held on May 3 at 6 pm.

Official partners: LAC-Switzerland, Direction des Musées Cantonaux, Municipalité de Sion, Etat du Valais, Loterie Romande, Migros pour-cent culturel.

For further press information, please contact Steve.Donze@dolmen.ch.

DOLMEN ASSOCIATES are committed to echo new developments coalescing contemporary art and music within unusual environments.

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