

REAL ACADEMIA DE ESPAÑA EN ROMA AND THE AMERICAN
ACADEMY IN ROME PRESENT *DIALOGUE: TWO PROJECTS BY*
ANTONI MUNTADAS AND GIULIO SQUILLACCIOTTI
ON TUESDAY 7 JUNE 2011 AND
THE EUROPEAN PREMIERE OF
ABOUT ACADEMIA BY ANTONI MUNTADAS



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Rome (27 May 2011) - The Real Academia de España en Roma and the American Academy in Rome are pleased to present *Dialogue: Two projects by Antoni Muntadas and Giulio Squillacciotti*, curated by Maria Rosa Sossai and Avelino Sala. The opening will take place across both institutions on Tuesday June 7, beginning with a lecture at 6PM by Antoni Muntadas followed by the first European presentation of his latest work, *About Academia*. Visitors will then be guided to the nearby Real Academia de España en Roma to view *Cassetti Aperti*, a site-specific installation by Antoni Muntadas and *Casi la mitad de la historia*, a film projection by Giulio Squillacciotti. The installations will remain on view at both institutions until 28 June.

Enrique Panés, Director of the Real Academia de España en Roma commented, “*The RAER and the AAR would never have had a better opportunity to co-present a project at a high cultural and artistic level than the one offered to us by Antoni Muntadas. An artist of great international prestige and a citizen of both Spain and the United States with a long teaching career and solid professional ties also in Italy, Antoni Muntadas represents a paradigm of the interrelationship from which our two academies have benefitted. For the RAER to welcome, furthermore, the work of Giulio Squillacciotti, based on his personal*

experience in collaborating with Muntadas, is a good way to conclude a program of activities that started with the idea of hospitality proposed by curator Maria Rosa Sossai and by our past fellow Avelino Sala. The participation of the Roman public will make it possible for the short distance separating our two academies on the Janiculum to reveal the solid cultural bridge that we have built with the Muntadas-Squillacciotti project.”

American Academy in Rome Director Christopher S. Celenza remarked, “*We at the American Academy in Rome are delighted to collaborate with our friends and neighbors on the Janiculum at the Real Academia de España en Roma. We appreciate their varied cultural endeavors, which, like ours, strive to reach out to many different disciplines and to reflect diverse perspectives on the world in which we live. The visit to Rome of Muntadas opens up a cultural vista in which artistic effort intersects with the academic environment. As such, it is the perfect focus for a joint project, one which we hope signals future occasions to work together.*”

Inspired by the pedagogical and professional relationship between the artists, *Dialogo* concerns art, themes of academic wisdom and knowledge mediated by history, and also the possibility of opening channels of communication between fields of artistic experience apparently remote from each other.

About Academia addresses the problematic relations between the production of knowledge and economic power. Over the course of three years, Muntadas and his team of collaborators researched the history of "academia" as an institution in the Western world, from its beginnings to the present challenges, and then proceeded to interview renowned faculty members at Harvard, M.I.T. and other universities across the United States. Participants included Ute Meta Bauer, Carol Becker, Noam Chomsky, John Coatsworth, Thomas Cummins, Bradley Epps, David Harvey, Doris Sommer, Mark Wigley, and Howard Zinn, among others.

Located in the Cryptoporticus of the American Academy in Rome, an installation consisting of three video projections confronts the viewer with some of the most pressing questions concerning the supposed objectivity of academic knowledge by pointing out the corporatization of institutions of higher learning in the United States. *About Academia* premiered at the Carpenter Center for Visual Arts at Harvard University and then at the Arizona State University Museum. The Rome exhibit marks the first time the project is presented in Europe.

Cassetti Aperti, an intervention by Antoni Muntadas in the Hall of Portraits at the Real Academia de España, investigates concepts such as access, closure, curiosity, secrecy, and transparency, and also circulates information leading to the transformation and definition of a private space which, with the intervention of the artist, becomes public. The gesture of opening drawers and doors is an exercise in liberty, a kind of training to receive an action in its simplicity, but also a powerful metaphor for the creative process.

Casi la mitad de la historia by Giulio Squillacciotti portrays the spaces of the Real Academia de España through the itinerary followed by an attentive visitor. From traces implicit in the story emerges a timeless place that preserves the memory of the past. The library, the books, and knowledge itself thus embody the synthesis of a method which both keeps and shares itself, a place of preservation handed down from generation to generation. The librarian, like the artist, applies a criterion of analysis to contexts, and by this method seeks to educate younger generations. The pact of preservation represented by the method/book becomes the leitmotif of the film.

Dialogo is the final part of the project *The Art of Hospitality*, curated by Maria Rosa Sossai and Avelino Sala, inspired as a whole by Jacques Derrida's writings on hospitality, which consider reception as a gift offered without any counterpart or principle of reciprocity, while the status of *ospite*, in the double sense of the one who is host and who is hosted (host-guest, in English) as described by the French philosopher, places everyone under the condition of experimenting with alterity.

The American Academy in Rome exhibit has been made possible through the generous support of

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7 June 2011 PROGRAM

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME - via Angelo Masina, 5 (tel. 06 58461)

6PM Lecture Room - lecture by Antoni Muntadas

7PM Cryptoporticus - video installation *About Academia* (Muntadas)

REAL ACADEMIA DE ESPAÑA EN ROMA - piazza San Pietro in Montorio, 3 (tel. 06 5812806)

8:30PM Hall of Portraits - installation *Cassetti Aperti* (Muntadas) and screening of *Casi la mitad de la historia*, (Squillacciotti)

9:30PM Joint reception in the garden of the Real Academia de España en Roma

Antoni Muntadas (b. 1942, Barcelona) has lived in New York since 1971. Muntadas has taught and directed seminars at diverse institutions throughout Europe and the United States. He has also been a resident artist and consulting advisor at various research and education centers. He is currently Professor of Practice at the ACT Program in the School of Architecture at MIT in Cambridge and Visiting Professor at the Instituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia. Muntadas has received various prizes and fellowships, one of the most recent of which is the Premio Velázquez de las Artes Plásticas 2009, granted by the Spanish Ministry of Culture. His work has been exhibited in many museums, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Among the international exhibitions in which his work has been presented are the VI and X editions of Documenta Kassel (1977, 1997), the Whitney Biennial of American Art (1991), the 51st Venice Biennial (2005) and those of Sao Paulo, Lyon, Taipei, Gwangju and Havana. Among his most recent solo exhibitions are *Protokolle*, Württembergischer Kunstverein Stuttgart, *Muntadas. Proyectos Urbanos (2002/2005)*... *Hacia Sevilla 2008*, Centro de las Artes de Sevilla and *Muntadas. Histoires du couteau*, Le Creux de l'enfer, Centre d'art contemporain, Thiers. In 2010 he presented his new project *On Translation: Açık Radyo, Myths and Stereotypes*, supported by the program *Lives and Works in Istanbul*, exhibited at the Turkish Istanbul Museum. His most recent show *Informacao..Espaco>>Controle* at the Pinacoteca de Sao Paulo, in Brazil will travel to the Museo of Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia.

Giulio Squillacciotti (Rome, 1982). After completing studies in Medieval Art History at the Universities of Barcelona and Rome (La Sapienza), Squillacciotti pursued his studies in Venice at the IUAV for a Laurea Magistrale in Arti Visive, and won a one-year residency at the Ateliers of the Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa. Squillacciotti has exhibited in the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo (Torino), the Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa (Venice), MAXXI (Roma), the Galleria di Arte Contemporanea (Monfalcone), at Fondazione Ratti (Como), and abroad he has exhibited at the Neues Museum (Weimar), Aaran Gallery (Tehran), CNAC (Grenoble), in Istanbul as part of "Istanbul 2010 European Culture Capital," at AKV (Den Bosch, Holland), and in Paris at the Espace Cinko. His work was presented as a talk at Manifesta 2010. At the moment he is pursuing research on Irish musical tradition and its reinvention in the New York City Irish community.

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

Established in 1894 and chartered by an Act of Congress in 1905, the American Academy in Rome is a leading center for independent study and advanced research in the arts and humanities. Situated on the Janiculum, the highest hill within the walls of Rome, the Academy today remains a private institution supported by gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations, and the memberships of colleges, universities, and arts and cultural organizations as well as by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Each year, through a national competition, the Rome Prize is awarded to approximately thirty individuals working in ancient, medieval, Renaissance and early modern; modern Italian studies; architecture, landscape architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation; literature; musical composition; and visual arts. The annual application deadline is 1 November. The Academy community also includes a select group of Residents, distinguished artists and scholars invited by the Director, as well as Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars.

For more information please visit: www.aarome.org

THE REAL ACADEMIA DE ESPAÑA EN ROMA

The Real Academia de España en Roma was established in 1873 to "promote national talent," offering "to artists a space for study and a place for encounter and practice near the city of Rome, metropolis of art for eternity." In 1881 the current site at San Pietro in Montorio was opened. Since then, the Academy has welcomed numerous Fellows: painters, sculptors, architects, engravers, and musicians. And since the end of World War II, literature, the theory and history of art, esthetics, archeology, museum studies, restauration, scenography, cinematography, and photography have been added to the five traditional arts disciplines. At the same time, the Academy has consolidated its position as an essential platform abroad for Spanish culture, thanks to an annual program of exhibitions, concerts and events. Since 2001 the Academy has also opened its doors to artists and scholars from Latin American countries.

For more information please visit: www.raer.it

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