

PRESS RELEASE – February 17, 2009  
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*Muntadas. The Construction of Fear*

The SBC Gallery of Contemporary Art is pleased to host an exhibition of recent works by artist Antoni Muntadas, from February 28 to April 18, 2009. The exhibition will be launched **Saturday, February 28, 2009** at 3 p.m. with the artist in attendance, as part of the Montreal Nuit Blanche / All-Nighter. A small publication accompanies the exhibition.

*Muntadas. The Construction of Fear* presents the artist's ongoing examination of the false objectivity of the media, which distorts the public/private relationship and produces the manufactured aspect of current fears.

Gallery visitors will be introduced to a vast array of images that eloquently illustrate how this so-called global media culture has constructed numerous real and ideological barriers that even today strongly delineate economic differences and political exclusions.

It was during the 1970s that Muntadas developed his concept of a "media landscape." Using images and words, such as titles from newspapers, magazines and books found in the media environment, the artist amplified specific characteristics of the insidious ideological reality conveyed via the media.

In the 1990s, he began *On Translation*, an ambitious body of work that currently consists of some 40 different projects, including two video productions, *On Translation: Fear/Miedo* (2005) and *On Translation: Miedo/Jauf* (2005-2008). Both are shown as part of this exhibition.

Muntadas was born in Barcelona in 1942. He moved to New York in 1971 and has lived there since. His work has been presented at many museums and international events, including, most notably, MOMA in New York; the Berkeley Art Museum in California; Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal; Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelone; Documenta VI and Documenta X in Kassel (1977, 1997); and the Venice Biennial (1976, 2005).

Concurrent to the exhibition, on **Thursday, February 26, at 12:30 p.m.**, Muntadas will speak at the ICI conference program (Intervenants culturels internationaux) at UQAM's École des arts visuels et médiatiques. In addition, three programs featuring the video works of Muntadas between 1971 and 2008 will be screened at the **Cinémathèque québécoise** on **April 8, 9 and 10**. The artist will be attending the final screening to discuss his work and meet the public.

SBC Gallery of contemporary art, 372 St. Catherine St. W., Space 507, Montreal, Quebec, H3B 1A2  
t: 514-861-9992 f: 514-861-8777, info@sbcgallery.ca, www.sbcgallery.ca.  
The gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 12 to 5 p.m.

The SBC Gallery of Contemporary Art wishes to thank the Phyllis Lambert Foundation, the Stephen R. Bronfman Foundation and the SBC's patrons.

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