

Press release

Olivier Blanckart
Algérie, les femmes déviolées

Exhibition from 6th November 2004 to 22nd January 2005

The Guy Bärtschi gallery will present in its "Project" Space an exhibition by Olivier Blanckart during the AGGAM open house weekend of the 6 and 7 November 2004 until 22 January 2005.

Olivier Blanckart was born in 1959 in Brussels, Belgium. He lives and works in Paris.

This exhibition will be composed of about fifteen sculptures whose title "Algeria, les femmes déviolées" takes a critical look (in the midst of the debate on veiled women in our secular society) at colonisation and the role of the French army during the Algerian war.

Faithful to his technique of using paper, cardboard and packing tape for his sculptures, Olivier Blanckart borrows "the icons of the history of photography from the present or the past, as bequeathed to us by photographic posterity or as summarized by contemporary media".

For this work, the artist used photographs taken by Marc Garanger during the Algerian war, of Algerian women forced to remove their veils to allow him to take passport photos.

Forcing these women to remove their veils in front of a man who is not a member of their family and then using these photographs for aesthetic purposes is an offence to them. Through his exhibition, Olivier Blanckart seeks to give back a body, a dignity and to pay homage to these anonymous women.