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**Manifesta 6 and the International Foundation Manifesta announce the Manifesta Coffee Break which will take place in Nicosia, Cyprus on January 20th and 21st, 2006**

**For more information contact:**

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The Manifesta Coffee Break is an informal public brainstorming session, leading up to Manifesta 6, the European Biennial of Contemporary Art. Focusing on art education, the Coffee Break, part of an ongoing series initiated by the International Foundation Manifesta, will help prepare the way for the Biennial itself, which will take place in Nicosia, Cyprus from September 23rd to December 17th, 2006 and for which the curators - Mai Abu EIDahab, Anton Vidokle and Florian Waldvogel - propose to challenge the conventional large-scale exhibition format and alternatively establish an art school. The Manifesta Coffee Break will attempt to consider the possibilities and problems of art education, engaging participants and audiences with the issues at hand: goals and structure of a school, its ideological contexts, its possibilities for relevant cultural production, its relationship to social, political and geographical conditions, and the level of its discursive involvement. Participants include Babak Afrassiabi, Martin Beck, Daniel Birnbaum, Jürgen Bock, Adrienne Goehler, Vasif Kortun, Raimundas Malasauskas, Francesco Manacorda, Monica Narula, Anber Onar, John Palmesino, Yiannis Papadakis, Irit Rogoff, Martha Rosler, Walid Sadek, Nasrin Tabatabai, Jalal Toufic, Jan Verwoert, Florian Waldvogel and Elin Wikström.

## Programme

### Friday, January 20th, 2006

**Location** Pankypriou Gymnasium, Archbishop Kyprianos Square, Nicosia

**11.00 12.00** Press Conference: Introduction and Book Launch of Notes for an Art School, the first publication of Manifesta School Books

**12.00 13.30** The Non-academic Art School and Contemporary Cultural Production

What is the current relationship between art practice and theory? In what ways does an art school negotiate dominant ideological positions? How is the artist-student positioned within the art school? Can an art school be a transformative factor in a community and beyond?

Adrienne Goehler, former president of the Academy of Fine Arts in Hamburg and former Senator for Science, Research and Culture in Berlin

Monica Narula, artist and member of Raqs Media Collective in Delhi

Irit Rogoff, Professor of Visual Cultures at Goldsmiths College in London

Martha Rosler, artist and professor at Rutgers University in New Jersey

Jan Verwoert/>, (moderator) contributing editor of Frieze, critic and teacher

**15.30 - 17.30** The Non-Academic Art School: Structures and Goals

What is a non-academic school? What is the importance of moving among and beyond disciplines? How can extra-curricular activities activate cultural production in a school? Is it effective to try to break down the teacher/student hierarchy?

Martin Beck, artist and teacher

Jürgen Bock, (moderator) freelance curator and director of Maumaus Art School in Lisbon

Anber Onar, artist and teacher

Walid Sadek, artist and teacher at the Film Department at the American University in Beirut

### Saturday, January 21st, 2006

**Location** Arabahmet Cultural Centre, 5 Sehet Mehmet Hussein Street, Nicosia

**11.00 13.00** The Art School in Context: Interacting With Urban/Social Structures

In what ways can an art school interact with its setting? Can a school play a role in the process of bi-communal reconciliation? Will the presence and development of a school affect urban reconstruction? What conditions need to be addressed for the school to be a significant cultural institution?

Francesco Manacorda, curator and art critic

Yiannis Papadakis John Palmesino, (moderator) founding member of Multiplicity and teacher at the Contemporary City Institute in Basel

Elin Wikström, artist and dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Umea

Daniel Birnbaum, curator and director of Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste

(Städelschule) in Frankfurt

**15.00 17.00** The Art School in Context: At Home and Abroad

How does the culture of a location relate to the outlook of a school? What do students bring with them? Is maintaining an international faculty important? What are the reasons that compel artists to study abroad? Does the choice of staying at home affect artistic production?

Jalal Toufic, artist and writer

Vasif Kortun, (moderator) director of Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center in Istanbul and teacher

Raimundas Malasauskas, curator at Center for Contemporary Art in Vilnius

Nasrin Tabatabai and Babak Afrassiabi, artists and editors of Pages Magazine

Florian Waldvogel, co-curator of Manifesta 6

Free Admission. All Welcome. Please reserve your seats in advanced by calling or emailing Manifesta 6: Tel 357 22 797400 - [info@manifesta6.org.cy](mailto:info@manifesta6.org.cy)

\*Manifesta Coffee Break is initiated by IFM (International Foundation Manifesta) in collaboration with NFA (Nicosia For Art Ltd., Member of the Nicosia Municipality) and supported by European Commissions Culture 2000 Framework Programme, ECF (European Cultural Foundation), Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture, Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Ford Foundation Middle East and North Africa Office, British Council in Cyprus, Embassy of the USA in Cyprus, Royal Netherlands Embassy in Cyprus, Gulbenkian Foundation and Heinrich Böll Foundation, Cyprus Airways, Audi, Centrum Hotel and G. Charalambous Ltd.

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\*Manifesta Coffee Break is presented in association with NiMAC (Nicosia Municipal Arts Centre)-Associated with the Pierides Foundation, EKATE (Cyprus Chamber of Fine Arts), ARTos Foundation, EMAA (European Mediterranean Arts Association) and CAA (Cyprus Art Association).

Manifesta 6 will take place in Nicosia, Cyprus from 23 September to 17 December 2006.

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