

PRESS RELEASE:

Piso Mojado para Gaza

ELTIQA has invited visual artist Tom Bogaert to bring his *Piso Mojado* project to Gaza. The *Piso Mojado* is a succession of performances in which the artist mounts a yellow multi-lingual 'wet floor' safety cone onto a mooring buoy. The buoy finds meaning in various bodies of water. As of yet, Bogaert has installed *Pisos Mojados* in Brooklyn, Belgium, Jordan and Miami.

The *Piso Mojado* piece functions as an "open" work with no cemented meaning imposed on the viewer. This allows the interpretation of the work to change with its content, which is fluid and changes with time, context and audience. For example, in Miami, the buoy was interpreted as a comment on the 'Wet Feet, Dry Feet Policy': a Cuban citizen, who is caught on the waters between Cuba and the United States (i.e. 'wet floor'), would be sent home or to a third country. One who makes it to shore ('dry floor') gets a chance to remain in the US.

Eltiqa will install a *Piso Mojado* buoy in the port of Gaza City from June to September 2011. This is public art / participatory work that invites children, parents, teachers, artists and the public at large to interpret the content of the piece. These comments will be collected via email, feedback forms and street interviews and will become an integral part of the art piece.

The tangible and intangible outcome of the '*Piso Mojado para Gaza*' project will be presented in the form of an exhibition at Eltiqa Gallery in September 2011. Tangibles: video and photo documentation of the installation process in Gaza alongside previous *Piso Mojado* chapters. Intangibles: the voice of the people in the form of filled out questionnaires, audiotapes, testimonies, etc.

Who needs art in the midst of acute political instability and humanitarian catastrophe?

We at Eltiqa passionately and uncompromisingly believe that cultural development, via art and expression, is an essential tool of resistance. We refuse to accept that this is as good as it gets for our current state in society. Bringing the *Piso Mojado* project to Gaza should be seen as a public's need for interpretation. Even as Gaza is under siege and torn apart by countless tragedies, Eltiqa's presence and initiatives such as *Piso Mojado* testify to the persisting civility and openness of Gazans to art and ways of thinking.

We don't think art can change the world. We don't think art alone can save Gaza. But without wanting to overreach, we do think that this contemporary art project will indeed contribute to empower free-thinking, enlightened individuals to overcome the challenges of war and injustice. Eltiqa is also convinced that bringing *Piso Mojado* to Gaza will help change the way the world looks at Gazans, too often portrayed as one-dimensional, archaic and lethargic.

Let the *Piso Mojado para Gaza* float and a thousand schools of thought contend.

Raed Issa
Eltiqa Artists House
Gaza City, Palestine



Installation:
Thursday 2 June – Friday 30 September, 2011
Exhibition:
Sunday 4 September – Friday 30 September, 2011
Opening reception:
Sunday 4 September, 6-8pm

for further information please contact:

<http://www.eltiqa.com/>
<http://www.artistshouse.net>
<http://tomboqaert.org/>