

## Table Of Contents

<b>Amar Kanwar receives the first Edvard Munch Award for Contemporary Art</b>	<b>p. 2</b>
<b>OCA inaugurated as a permanent institution</b>	<b>p. 4</b>
<b>The Nordic Pavilion Exhibition, Venice</b>	<b>p. 5</b>
<b>International Visitor Programme in May</b>	<b>p. 6</b>
<b>International Studio Programme Oslo in May</b>	<b>p. 7</b>
<b>OCA recommends</b>	<b>p. 8</b>
<b>Exhibitions in Norway</b>	<b>p. 8</b>
<b>Exhibitions outside of Norway</b>	<b>p. 10</b>
<b>Other residency opportunities</b>	<b>p. 10</b>



# Amar Kanwar

## Kanwar receives the first Edvard Munch Award

The Indian artist and filmmaker Amar Kanwar is the first artist to receive the Edvard Munch Award for Contemporary Art. Kanwar was presented the award by H.M. Queen Sonja on 27 April. It has been initiated and developed by OCA to enhance exchange in international contemporary art and highlight the importance and continued influence of the Norwegian artist Edvard Munch (1863-1944). It is OCA's ambition to establish the Edvard Munch Award for Contemporary Art as the most prestigious and important annual award for international contemporary art given in Norway.

The award supports the development of a new art work and covers living expenses during a residency in Norway; a six-month stay at the Munch estate Ekely (Oslo) in addition to a grant of 55.000 USD. The prize is awarded with permission from Edvard Munch's family and Oslo Kommunes Kunstsamlinger. The studio apartment at Ekely has been renovated by architect Lillian Hvam and Statsbygg with support from Norsk Kulturråd.

### AMAR KANWAR

This year's award recipient is an artist and independent

filmmaker who lives and works from New Delhi, India. He will stay at Ekely from April through September this year. Responding to conditions in contemporary India, Kanwar treats issues relating to violence, politics, ecology and sexuality. His current on-going work, *The Torn First Pages*, is about the public resistance to the dictatorship within Burma and the challenges that it confronts and presents globally.

## KANWAR SEEN IN THE TRADITION OF MUNCH

The Edvard Munch Award for Contemporary Art honours the exceptional attitude of Munch and the way he translated what he sensed in society into his own artistic language. Munch's interest in everyday life and the struggle of the individual is still relevant to contemporary art today. Munch debated themes that were both personal and prevalent among his contemporaries, such as terminal illness, poverty, social exclusion, profound grief, love, lust and fear. He provided a new set of artistic tools for the representation of these themes – tools that are useful to both artists and viewers. Like Munch, Amar Kanwar deals with existential issues with universal bearing on the human condition.



Kanwar's work is currently on view in the ongoing exhibition *Populism* in Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Vilnius.

## THE JURY

The recipient of the Edvard Munch Award for Contemporary Art 2005 has been recommended by OCA's International Board and OCA director Ute Meta Bauer.

**International Board members:** Susanne Ghez (director, chief curator, the Renaissance Society, the University of Chicago), Prof. Sarat Maharaj (research professor, University of Lund) and Sune Nordgren (director, the National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo).

For more information and/or press downloads, please see [www.oca.no](http://www.oca.no) -> front page and/or Press

## OCA inauguration

The Office for Contemporary Art Norway was inaugurated as a permanent institution on 27 April by the Minister of Culture and Church Affairs Valgerd Svarstad Haugland. Her speech is available at the ministry's website (Norwegian only).

Exhibition architecture by Sverre Fehn  
(1958-62). Photo: Claudia C. Sandor

## The Nordic Pavilion Exhibition

51<sup>ST</sup> VENICE BIENNIAL OPENING 12 JUNE

The Nordic Pavilion at the Venice Biennial is shared by Finland, Norway and Sweden, with each country as a host in alternation. This year, Sweden and Moderna Museet are in charge. The curator Åsa Nacking, director of Lunds Konsthall, invited Matias Faldbakken to represent Norway and Miriam Bäckström and Carsten Höller to represent Sweden. The exhibition stands until 6 November.

### *Sharing Space Dividing Time*

Åsa Nacking has let the participating artists relate freely to the characteristic architecture of the pavilion, designed by the Norwegian architect Sverre Fehn. Instead of a traditional group exhibition, the project has developed into two exhibitions, which alternate temporally rather than spatially.

Matias Faldbakken's contribution consists of a video and an artist book. Entitled *Black Screen*, the video combines the traditional symbol for entertainment, the silver screen, with the key symbol of not belonging and negation, the black, anarchist flag.

## Int. Visitor Programme

OCA's International Visitor Programme assists international curators coming to Norway to do research for upcoming projects. The following have been invited for May:

**Carlota Alvarez Basso**, director of MARCO, Vigo/Spain

**Waling Boers**, director of Buero Friedrich, Berlin

**Miquel von Hafe Pérez**, independent curator, Porto/Portugal

**Hou Hanru**, curator of Zone of Urgency, 50<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennial 2003 and Saigon International 2005, based in Paris/France

**Jennifer Higgie**, co-editor in chief of *Frieze*, London/UK

**Sun Jung Kim**, Artsonje Seoul/commissioner of the Korean Pavilion Venice 2005, Korea

**Marta Kuzma**, freelance writer and critic, co-curator of Manifesta 5, San Sebastian 2004

**Markus Müller**, head of communication of the KW-Institute for Contemporary Art and the 4th Berlin Biennial, Germany

**Mark Nash**, curator and head of research at The London Institute, London/UK

**Brian Sholis**, art critic at Artforum, New York/USA

**Victor Zamudio Taylor**, independent curator, Mexico and New York/USA

## ISP Oslo in May


The following artists in residence at OCA's International Studio Programme Oslo in May are:

- Regina Möller, artist, Berlin/Germany
- Dana Samuel, media artist/designer/writer, Toronto/Canada. Exhibition: *Idea of North* at Galleri F15, see page 9
- Ulrike Solbrig, artist, Berlin/Germany
- Nomedas and Gediminas Urbonas, artists, Vilnius/Lithuania  
Exhibition: *Populism*, National Museum, Oslo

### EVENTS

- Dana Samuel, Artist Talk, Thursday 19 May, 7 pm
  - Regina Möller, Open Forum, Monday 23 May, 7 pm
- Info will be posted on [www.oca.no](http://www.oca.no) -> Lectures





*Sighting Unseen*, BULL.MILETIC, 2003.  
Multi-channel video installation

## OCA recommends

### EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS IN NORWAY

**BULL.MILETIC** at Henie Onstad Art Centre (Bærum) until 1 August. The Norwegian-Serbian duo Synne Bull and Dragan Miletic show the video installation *Sighting Unseen*.

#### ***The SKA Graduate Exhibition 2005***

Students from the National Academy of Fine Art show off their talents. Opening 21 May, 1 pm at the Stenersen Museum. Until 3 July.

***Idea Of North*** at Galleri F 15 (Jeløya) opens 29 May 29 at 2 pm. An exhibition about sound and space curated by Søsja Jørgensen illustrating the central place soundscapes have in visual arts today. Artists include Dana Samuel (CAN), who is currently in OCA's ISP Oslo. Until 7 August.

**Elmgreen & Dragset/Bergen Festival Exhibition – *The Welfare Show***, opens 26 May at Bergen Kunsthall at 1 pm. The building itself becomes an installation. Until 21 August.

***Godt for Moss***, the Momentum exhibition 2005 opening Thursday 26 May, 5 pm. An exhibition focussing on Moss, the host of Norway's largest biennial of contemporary art.

***Photography in the Extended Field – Preus Museum 10 years*** is a portrait of photography in the 21<sup>ST</sup> century opening at Preus Museum (Horten) on Thursday 26 May, 7 pm. Seminar: 26 May, 12-4 pm.

***Kiss The Frog!***, National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design (Oslo), 28 May-18 September. The new museum's first large semi-permanent international exhibition, aspiring to cross borders between art, architecture and design and bring together different traditions and fields of creativity.

***The Unconventional DIY Convention – CALL FOR ENTRIES!*** Badet Prosjektrom, Hausmannsgate 40, Friday 27-Sunday 29 May. A celebration of Do It Yourself/DIY attitudes – a creative outlet and method for applying political and environmental stances to daily life. For further information/contributions contact: Val or Ingvild, [ovaryactionmail@yahoo.com](mailto:ovaryactionmail@yahoo.com)

Below: *A Chat with the Artist*, Dana Samuel, 2003. Media-based performance/installation.



## OUTSIDE OF NORWAY

**Erik Snedsbøl** is showing the installation *German Shepherd* at *Between Skin and Orgasm* at Belfort, Brugge/ Belgium, 19 May-7 August.

## Other residencies

### NIFCA AIR 2006 – DEADLINE 31 MAY

The Nordic Institute for Contemporary Art (NIFCA), based in Helsinki/Finland has an extensive Artist-in-Residence (AiR) programme. All visual artists based in the Nordic and Baltic countries are eligible to apply!

### NORDIC ARTISTS' CENTRE – DEADLINE 31 MAY

The Nordic Artists' Centre in Dale, Norway offers residencies for Nordic and international artists in 2006 lasting three to twelve months. One studio is available for international artists from outside the Nordic area.

*Best regards from the Office for Contemporary Art Norway team: director Ute Meta Bauer, coordinator Velaug Bollingmo, curator Christiane Erharter, project coordinator Birgitte Lie, administrator Heidi Nilsen, project coordinator Sten Are Sandbeck, newsletter editor Claudia C. Sandor, head of communication Ole Slyngstadli.*