

## The Cat Inside

**Panagiotis Balomenos, Aku Korhonen, Nikola Uzunovski**

Vienna International Apartment, Helsinki

11 May - 8 June 2007

The spring 2007 exhibition at the Vienna International Apartment in Helsinki presents paintings, objects and installations by three artists, Panagiotis Balomenos (Greece), Aku Korhonen (Finland), and Nikola Uzunovski (Macedonia/Italy), under the title "The Cat Inside".

Cats and their human hosts are both domesticated. Man knows that there are some basic roles that he or she must obey in order to live in the social, political and cultural society. At the same time, the cat inside symbolises the animal-self in Man, his or her aggressive side. The word aggression is often used in situations that are not socially constructive. However, aggression can also be used in a constructive way. Here, in reference to Art, aggression is seen as an act of creation - the artist's tour de force.

The exhibition The Cat Inside takes its name from William Burroughs' book on his relationships with 'cats and humans alike'. In reference to Burroughs' collection of short stories, the exhibition explores different types of phases, moods or characters that the artist undergoes during the process of making art.

A lot of wonderful things are created in the name of art - or as art. However, in order to reach a point where art is valued and appreciated, many less wonderful things need to have their place. The Cat Inside, a mischievous twinkle in the artist's eye: there lies an unexpected sense of wonder as one becomes aware of the artist's private self; when the artist gives him or herself to the public through Art. "The Cat does not offer services. The Cat offers itself."

"We are the Cats Inside. We are the Cats who cannot walk alone, and for us there is only one place. This place can only be the heart. The heart of all Cats and Men alike."

Quotes: William Burroughs, The Cat Inside, Penguin Books, 2002.

### **VIENNA INTERNATIONAL APARTMENT**

Viides linja 14

00530 Helsinki

Finland

Curator: Sílvia Salgado