

**An Ideal Society Creates Itself**  
**29 April – 21 May 2005**

**Oliver Ressler**

Oliver Ressler's first personal exhibition in Turkey focuses on "Alternative Economics, Alternative Societies", a video project he has been developing since 2003. After the loss of a counter model for capitalism – which socialism, in its real, existing form had presented until its collapse – alternative concepts for economic and social development are facing difficulties at the beginning of the twenty-first century. In the industrial nations, "alternatives" are only broadly discussed when they do not question the existing power relations of the capitalist system and representative democracies. Other socio-economic approaches are, on the other hand, labeled utopian, devalued, and excluded from serious discussion if even considered at all.

In the framework of this theme-specific installation, the artist presents a series of interviews he conducted with various political theoreticians, writers and historians on diverse concepts and models for alternative economies and societies which all share a rejection by the capitalist system of rule. The project was initiated with 5 videos in 2003 and the Istanbul show, "An Ideal Society Creates Itself", will bring together all 11 videos. Additionally, the video project "Venezuela From Below" (2004), realized by Oliver Ressler in collaboration with Dario Azzellini will be shown for the first time in the context of this exhibition.

The artist will give a lecture about the exhibition "An Ideal Society Creates Itself" and his previous projects, which can be viewed at [www.ressler.at](http://www.ressler.at), at Platform at 17:00 on Saturday April 30th.

This exhibition is supported by the Austrian Cultural Institute, Istanbul and bundeskanzleramt, Austria.