

PRESS RELEASE

The Photographers:
Laurence Bonvin
Juul Hondius

June 23 - August 11, 2007

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Platform Garanti Contemporary Art Center is pleased to present *The Photographers*, an exhibition by the Swiss artist Laurence Bonvin and the Dutch artist Juul Hondius.

Prior to the realization of exhibition, both Bonvin and Hondius spent a considerable amount of time in Istanbul in 2005 and 2006. The exhibition is a result of the extensive research about urban spaces in transformation, changing demographics, and mental maps of the city.

There is a remarkable interest in photography as a predominant medium in the field of contemporary art in Turkey. With this exhibition, Platform approaches this interest with two distinct positions: Hondius' photography takes on a place though a series of complex procedures without over-signifying the place itself. It is a form of distilling a city to a set of monumental images that are in large part mis-en-scènes. Rather than transferring the real, he starts with a photographic fiction that has a purchases on plausibility. Bonvin's photographs, similar to Hondius', betray the desire of arresting the image in a local, preconceived way. In fact, Bonvin's photographs of plush, newly built gated communities on the outskirts of the city have the potential to be anywhere for an scrutinizing eye. Mostly of depopulated, tranquil spaces, the photographs look like near-perfect sets unlikely to be actual.

The exhibition is a welcome relief to the subject of Istanbul that has been suffering from over-representation, photo-documentary formats, journalistic impulses, and the fast image.

Laurence Bonvin Juul Hondius Laurence Bonvin is a photography-based artist living and working in Geneva. A two-time recipient of the Swiss Art Award, her work has been exhibited at the Fotomuseum Winterthur, Fri-Art, Fribourg, Aarhus Copenhagen and many other other institutions.

Juul Hondius in Amsterdam based artist and a former resident of Platform Garanti CAC. His work has been exhibited recently at the Tate Liverpool Museum, The Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam, and Busan Biennale 2004, South Korea.

The exhibition has been realized with the support of Pro Helvetia, and the Mondriaan Foundation.