

## ***THE HUGO BOSS PRIZE 2008: EMILY JACIR*** **OPENS AT THE GUGGENHEIM FEBRUARY 6**

(NEW YORK, NY – January 30, 2009) An exhibition of the work of artist Emily Jacir, winner of the Hugo Boss Prize 2008, will be on view at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum from February 6 through April 15, 2009. Jacir, who received the Golden Lion Award for an artist under 40 at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Venice Biennale in 2007, is the seventh artist to win the prestigious Hugo Boss Prize, a biennial award that was established by Hugo Boss and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in 1996 to recognize significant achievement in contemporary art.

In their statement, the jurors\* of the Hugo Boss Prize 2008 describe their selection: “Emily Jacir’s rigorous conceptual practice—comprising photography, video, performance, and installation-based work—bears witness to a culture torn by war and displacement. As a member of the Palestinian diaspora, she comments on issues of mobility (or the lack thereof), border crises, and historical amnesia through projects that unearth individual narratives and collective experiences. Jacir combines the roles of archivist, activist, and poet to create poignant and memorable works of art that are at once intensely personal and deeply political. It is the refined sophistication of Jacir’s art and the relevance of her concerns—both global and local—in a time of war, transnationalism, and mass migration that led us to award her the Hugo Boss Prize 2008.”

This exhibition brings together, for the first time, two installations that address the October 1972 assassination of Palestinian intellectual Wael Zuaiter in Rome by Israeli secret service agents following the deadly kidnapping of the Israeli delegation of athletes and trainers, to the 1972 Munich Summer Olympics by the Palestinian militant group Black September (to which Zuaiter was never

\* Russell Ferguson, Chair, Department of Art, UCLA, Los Angeles, California; Maria Lind, Director of the Graduate Program, Center for Curatorial Studies, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York; Sandhini Poddar, Assistant Curator of Asian Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; Nancy Spector, Chief Curator, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum; and Marc-Olivier Wahler, Director, Palais de Tokyo, Paris.

conclusively linked). *Material for a film (performance)* (2006) presents a memorial to one of Zuaiter's thwarted aspirations: the translation into Italian of the centuries-old collection of Arabic stories *One Thousand and One Nights*. A bullet pierced a copy of volume two of the ancient classic that Zuaiter was carrying when he was gunned down. For this installation, which was first shown at the 2006 Biennale of Sydney, Jacir photographed each page that showed vestiges of the bullet. She also learned to shoot a .22 caliber pistol—the same model used in the murder—and fired bullets into 1000 blank books, creating a haunting mausoleum that, in the artist's words, "is a memorial to untold stories. To that which has not been translated. To stories that will never be written." In *Material for a film* (2004– ), which was first exhibited at the 2007 Venice Biennale, Jacir culls items from Zuaiter's personal effects, including photographs, books, correspondence, and music, along with other ephemera to create an intimate portrait. Jacir sought out his friends and family, as well as the places Zuaiter lived and frequented, in order to present a chronicle of his life, work, and passions. The titles of these works are derived from a chapter by filmmakers Elio Petri and Ugo Pirro of the 1979 collection of essays, poems, and memoirs *For a Palestinian: A Memorial to Wael Zuaiter*, edited by Janet Venn-Brown. Their chapter is comprised of interviews with Zuaiter's closest friends in Italy, from which the two authors had intended to produce a film about Zuaiter (but were unable to do so before Petri's death in 1982). Jacir has continued the project, conducting her own interviews and research, and in *Material for a film* she has constructed a narrative, presented through her arresting use of material and space.

The exhibition has been organized by Joan Young, Associate Curator of Contemporary Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.

Emily Jacir lives and works in Ramallah, Palestine, and New York. She is a finalist for the Deutsche Börse Photography Prize 2009, presented by The Photographers' Gallery in London. In 2007, she received the Golden Lion Award for an artist under 40 at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Venice Biennale and the Prince Claus Award, from the Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development, The Hague. Jacir participated in the Whitney Independent Study Program, New York (1998-89), the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Studio Residency Program, New York (1999-2000), and the National and International Studio Program at P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center in New York (2000-01).

In November 2008, Jacir was selected as the Hugo Boss Prize 2008 winner from a shortlist of finalists that included Christoph Büchel, Patty Chang, Sam Durant, Joachim Koester, and Roman Signer.

According to the Hugo Boss Prize criteria, the award is given to an artist whose work represents a significant development in contemporary art. The prize sets no restrictions in terms of age, gender, race, nationality, or media, and the nominations may include young, emerging artists, as well as established individuals whose public recognition may be long overdue. The prize carries an award of \$100,000 and is administered by the Foundation.

### **Publication**

In conjunction with the Hugo Boss Prize 2008, the Guggenheim has published a catalogue that features the work of all of the finalists, including special projects by each artist. The catalogue, designed by Helicopter L.L.C., includes essays by T.J. Demos, Liza Johnson, Shanna Ketchum-Heap of Birds, Lars Bang Larsen, and Gerhard Mack, with an introduction by Joan Young, Associate Curator of Contemporary Art, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. The catalogue is available for \$19.95.

### **About Hugo Boss**

Last year marked the seventh presentation of the Hugo Boss Prize at the Guggenheim Museum. Since its inception in 1996, the prize has been awarded to American artist Matthew Barney (1996), Scottish artist Douglas Gordon (1998), Slovenian artist Marjetica Potrč (2000), French artist Pierre Huyghe (2002), Thai artist Rirkrit Tiravanija (2004), and British artist Tacita Dean (2006). Previous finalists have been Laurie Anderson, Janine Antoni, Stan Douglas, Cai Guo Qiang, and Yasumasa Morimura in 1996; Huang Yong Ping, William Kentridge, Lee Bul, Pipilotti Rist, and Lorna Simpson in 1998; Vito Acconci, Maurizio Cattelan, Michael Elmgreen and Ingar Dragset, Tom Friedman, Barry Le Va, and Tunga in 2000; Francis Alÿs, Olafur Eliasson, Hachiya Kazuhiko, Koo Jeong-a, and Anri Sala in 2002; Franz Ackermann, Rivane Neuenschwander, Jeroen de Rijke and Willem de Rooij, Simon Starling, and Yang Fudong in 2004; and Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla, John Bock, Damián Ortega, Aïda Ruilova, and Tino Sehgal in 2006.

Hugo Boss has provided critical support to many of the Guggenheim Museum's programs since 1995. In addition to the Hugo Boss Prize, the company has helped to make possible the retrospectives of Matthew

Barney, Georg Baselitz, Ross Bleckner, Francesco Clemente, Frank Gehry, Ellsworth Kelly, Robert Rauschenberg, and James Rosenquist; the presentation of *Art in America: Now* in Shanghai; the Ed Ruscha (2005) and Felix Gonzalez-Torres (2007) exhibitions in the U.S. Pavilion of the Venice Biennale; and the exhibition *theanyspacewhatever* (2008), featuring the works of several past finalists, including Maurizio Cattelan (2000), Douglas Gordon (1998 winner), Pierre Huyghe (2002 winner), and Rirkrit Tiravanija (2004 winner).

For additional information about the Hugo Boss Prize, please go to <http://www.hugobossprize.com>

### **About the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation**

Founded in 1937, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation is dedicated to promoting the understanding and appreciation of art, primarily of the modern and contemporary periods, through exhibitions, education programs, research initiatives, and publications. Currently the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation owns and operates the Guggenheim Museum on Fifth Avenue in New York and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection on the Grand Canal in Venice, and also provides programming and management for two other museums in Europe that bear its name: the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and the Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin. In early 2013 the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi, a 452,000 square foot museum of modern and contemporary art designed by architect Frank Gehry, is scheduled to open.

### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

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**Admission:** Adults \$18.00, students/seniors (65+) \$15.00, members and children under 12 free. Admission includes audio guide tour.

**Museum Hours:** Saturday to Wednesday, 10 AM to 5:45 PM; Friday, 10 AM to 7:45 PM. Closed Thursday. On Friday evenings, beginning at 5:45 PM, the museum hosts Pay What You Wish. For general information call, 212 423 3500, or visit [www.guggenheim.org](http://www.guggenheim.org).

#1107 January 30, 2009

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# Hugo Boss Prize 2008: Emily Jacir

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

February 6, 2009 - April 15, 2009

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Portrait

Photo: Sarah Shatz



Emily Jacir

Where We Come From (Jihad), 2001–03

Framed laser print and chromogenic print mounted on cintra, text: 9 1/2 x 11 1/2 inches (24 x 29 cm); print: 10 x 10 inches (25.4 x 25.4 cm), edition of 3

Photo courtesy the artist and Alexander and Bonin, New York

NOTE: The image and text should be reproduced together as shown. If the image is shown alone, it should be annotated as: Where We Come From (Jihad), 2001–03 (detail)



Emily Jacir  
 Crossing Surda (a record of going to and from work), 2002

Two-channel color video installation with monitor and projection, with sound, 132 min. and wall text, dimensions variable

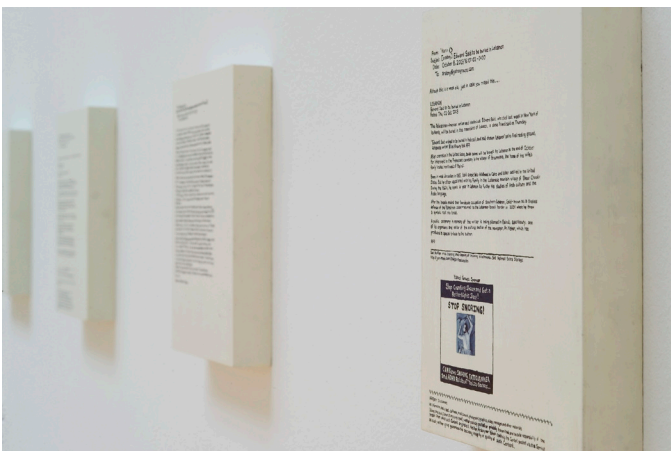
Photo courtesy the artist and Alexander and Bonin, New York



Emily Jacir  
 Ramallah/New York 0755905

Two-channel color video, with sound, 38 min.

Photo courtesy the artist and Alexander and Bonin, New York



Emily Jacir  
 Inbox, 2004–05 (detail)

Oil on wood, 45 parts, 11 x 8 1/2 inches (28 x 21.5 cm) each

Installation view, Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, 2007

Photo courtesy the artist and Alexander and Bonin, New York



Emily Jacir  
 embrace, 2005

Rubber, aluminum, motor, and motion sensors, diameter: 70 inches (179 cm), 15 inches (40.6 cm) high, edition of 2

Photo courtesy the artist and Alexander and Bonin, New York



**Emily Jacir**

Material for a film (performance), 2005–06 (detail)

Installation and performance, 1000 blank books shot by the artist with a 22 caliber gun, mixed media, and photographs, dimensions variable

Documentary photograph, Zones of Contact: 2006 Biennale of Sydney

Photo courtesy the artist and Alexander and Bonin, New York