

Speculations

November 6th-December 10th 2002

Platform Garanti hosted a new exhibition titled '**Speculations**', from 6th of November to 10th of December 2002. Curated by Vasif Kortun and independent critic and curator Erden Kosova, the exhibition presented three videos; **Ayse Erkmen's** *Dario & Emre*, **Vahit Tuna's** *Europe Hear Us* and **Erzen Shkololli's** *Hey Europe*, that consider and suggest how local and national identities are formed and then due to conflict and relocation can become dismantled.

The first of the '**Speculations**' *Dario & Emre*, 1999 by artist Ayse Erkmen offers an ironic commentary on the problems of geographical identity. In the video we see a young man dancing and miming the lyrics of the song '*Istanbul C'est Konstantinopol*'. This song was originally performed in the 50s by singer Dario Moreno and in Erkmen's work Dario's original recording is played while her son Emre takes on the role of performer. He dances wildly in front of a white background, a void space, which offers no clues to his geographical location. The song plays over and over again, with the young man continuing to dance and mime, even though he grows tired.

In Vahit Tuna's video installation *Europe hear us!*, 1999 a football 'fanatic', his face up close to the camera, aggressively sings a Turkish football supporter's song '*Europe Europe hear us!*'. At first he appears a strong and resilient character, perhaps a hooligan, with his identity obscured by the scarf wrapped around his head. But, in reality he stands alone in an empty football field, his chants heard by no one. The fanatic's lonely and hostile behaviour represents the diversity of problems related to different scales of social exclusion.

In his video projection *Hey Europe*, artist Erzen Shkololli presents a famous Kosovan singer dressed in the country's traditional costume and singing a local song. The lyrics of the song gradually become more severe, ending with declarations such as '*take Albanians seriously or we may burn the whole world*'. The video produced by Shkololli in 2001, comments on the psychological identity struggles

experienced by the citizens of the Balkans.