

PRESS RELEASE
27.10 - 08.12.2007

ALICIA FRAMIS – *From China With Love*

Annet Gelink Gallery proudly presents the third exhibition of Alicia Framis (Spain, 1967). Alicia Framis has been working and living in Shanghai since 2006. Quite like Framis, her works relate to society, and it is easy to see the influence of her immediate surroundings and living environment. All of the new works we present somehow reflect on Asian society, using ingredients of the domains of architecture, fashion and popular culture.

Not for Sale (2007) is a work in progress about children that are for sale around the world. The project started in Bangkok, Thailand, where Framis made the first portraits of children. The children are naked except for a necklace that says 'Not for Sale'. At first sight, the images appear to be sweet and soft; the boys are smiling and seem to be happy and healthy. It is only when you have a second look that you notice what Framis is pointing out: the reality of the fragile and dangerous position of many children these days. And the real risk to be actually sold.

Since she is living in China, Framis has been interested in the idea of portraits as propaganda, like the ones of Mao Zedong, or the king of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej. Adulyadej's portrait hangs everywhere in Bangkok. Framis is using the same measures for her photo's as Adulyadej's. In *Not for Sale* we see the methods of propaganda portraits used on a different subject. Adulyadej's propaganda posters have an optimistic, cheerful appearance in which certain details or attributes are conveying the message. Framis shows these beautiful smiling kids in their idyllic surroundings, with only their small attribute of a necklace revealing their possible fate.

China Five Star – 100 ways to wear a flag (2007) is a tribute to Chinese women. Framis asked several fashion designers to make a dress inspired by the Chinese flag. This work refers to her earlier *anti-dog* series, a collection of designs made with a special fabric (Twaron) that is fire proof, bullet proof and dog proof. *The anti-dog* collection protects women from aggressive behaviour and - maybe more important - gives them the courage and strength to walk around fearless and powerful. With *China Five Star*, Framis again empowers women by presenting them in a national symbol.

The Bakery

Square for Disappeared People (2007) is a model for a memorial. A memorial to remind us of the people who disappeared. The work exists of 365 chairs, for every day of the year one; all the chairs have a different date on them. This date represents the fact that so often when people disappear the only thing we are left behind with is the date they disappeared.

Alicia Framis' works were on display at many exhibitions over the past years. This year she has, amongst others, solo presentations in the Zendai Museum in Shanghai, the Caixa Forum in Barcelona and a groupshow in the Centre d'Art Contemporain in Geneva. Her work has been included in renowned collections such as Tate Modern, Museum Boijmans van Beuningen and various private collections.

Annet Gelink Gallery is open from Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 1 p.m- 6 p.m.. Please contact for more information: Floor Wullems or Geer Oskam +31.20-3302066 or info@annetgelink.com