

PRESS RELEASE

Wed 7 January 2009

For immediate release



Zineb Sedira

Floating Coffins, Saphir & MiddleSea

Curated by David Schischka Thomas

Press Interviews and Photocall: Friday 6th February, from 4pm with Zineb Sedira

Preview Event: Friday 6th February, 6pm till 11pm

Dates: Saturday 7 February to Sunday 19 April 2009

Opening Times: 10am - 7pm daily, except Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 11am - 4pm

Admission: Free

New Art Exchange (NAE) Nottingham, working with Arts Admin, look forward to launching NAE's first major exhibition commission by the international award winning artist **Zineb Sedira**. '**Floating Coffins**' is a stunning video and sound installation about the world's largest ship graveyard in Mauritania. The major new £5 million contemporary arts centre will showcase this piece alongside Sedira's **Saphir** and **MiddleSea** throughout the gallery.

A new commission from NAE, **Floating Coffins** (2008) is a video and photographic project presented on **20 video screens** about the world's largest shipping graveyard outside the harbour city of Nouadhibou, West Africa - **a departure point for illegal migrants hoping to reach Europe**. Exploring the metaphor between ships left to rot along the coast and the escape from African citizens dreaming of a better future in Europe.

Award winning international artist **Zineb Sedira** was born to Algerian immigrants and explores notions of **displacement and exile** through photography, video and sound installations. Presenting three significant pieces of Zineb's work in a feast of sound and visuals, **the galleries of NAE will be blacked out** and transformed into dynamic multimedia spaces.

Existing works **Saphir** and **MiddleSea** are meditations on the sea as a site of transience and migration, departure and arrival.

Saphir (2006)* contrasts Zineb's, like many others who left, pleasure as she returns to the sights and sounds of Algiers, to some of its' disenchanted residents dreaming of escape across the water to Europe.

MiddleSea (2008)* explores the transitional nature of the sea and its shifting shores and borders, not only as vessel of movement but as a barrier between the South and North, the East and West. The sound, composed by Mikhail Karikis, creates a brooding, possessed presence, while the imagery depicts a somnambulant journey by a lone figure.

**Both of these will be presented as high definition video installations*

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The Artist

Zineb Sedira is a multi media artist. She graduated from Slade School of Art with a MA in Media in 1997, completing research in Photography at Royal College of art in 2003. In 2008 she exhibited at Wapping Project, London, and Galerie Kamel Mennour, Paris. Zineb was part of the British Art Show 06 and received an Art Council Decibel award in 2004.

ZINEB SEDIRA, Artist, said:

"This unique phenomenon on the Saharan shores represent both a hazard to shipping and an ecological threat. Also, the sea becomes a space of 'decline' and an inactive landscape where lifeless ships and human bodies, can be found when rejected by the sea.

Like a fish net, the sand catches discarded goods displaced from their original home. Noxious waters and dying boats are vomiting intoxicated fishes and shattered objects. In this landscape, we can understand the scale of the ecological catastrophe in West Africa."

For more information on Zineb, please visit: www.zinebsedira.com

DAVID SCHISCHKA THOMAS, Curator - New Art Exchange, said:

"Floating Coffins, an ambitious new commissioned work by acclaimed artist Zineb Sedira will utilise the gallery space in a way that transforms the viewer into a world far away from Central England, a world of savage beauty, environmental disaster and hope of a better future through a dangerous sea journey. This world, off the coast of the West African harbour city of Nouadhibou, may be far away, but it resonates with many of the UK's and Nottingham's migrant communities."

MANICK GOVINDA, Arts Admin, said:

"Arts Admin is delighted to be working with Zineb as her producer for her new work Floating Coffins. This unique commission from The New Art Exchange has allowed Zineb to push her practice further in the area of film & video installation. NAE have been fantastic in responding to the artist's creative thinking, being fluid and responsive to her ideas. It's been a joy to work with NAE on this project."

For further press information please contact - Raam Tarat, Marketing and Communications Manager - Freelance, T: 0115 924 8630, M: 07944 271979, E: raam.tarat@thenewartexchange.org.uk

- Ends -

In support of these exhibitions, NAE is working closely with **education and outreach** practitioners, presenting a free programme based around the residual themes of Floating Coffins, Sephir and MiddleSea.

A series of **educational workshops** will take place with artists including **Panya Banjoko, Karen Frazer and Zineb Sedira** this Spring. For further information on this, please contact *Rosie Fyffe, Education & Outreach Manager* on rosie.fyffe@thenewartexchange.org.uk or 0115 924 8630.

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Notes to Editors

Preview

- **The Private View takes place on Friday 6th February, 6pm till 11pm with Zineb Sedira in attendance.** There will be a live DJ playing *Sounds of Africa*, and refreshments will be provided
- For **press interviews with Zineb** prior to the launch, please contact Raam Tarat to arrange this
- There will be a **free London bus service to and from the exhibition** on the evening of the event. For more information and to book your place on this, please contact Manick Govinda at Arts Admin on 020 7247 5102 or manick@artsadmin.co.uk

Exhibition

- **Admission to the exhibition, events, education and outreach is FREE.**
- **The galleries are open daily for exact opening times visit: www.thenewartexchange.org.uk/contact.php**
- **Zineb Sedira**, is a multi media artist. She graduated from Slade School of Art with a MA in Media in 1997, completing research in Photography at Royal College of art in 2003. In 2008 she exhibited at Wapping Project, London, and Galerie Kamel Mennour, Paris. Zineb was part of the British Art Show 06 and received an Art Council Decibel award in 2004. For more information, please visit: www.zinebsedira.com
- **The galleries of NAE will be completely blacked out** and transformed into dynamic multimedia spaces.
- In support of these exhibitions, NAE is working closely with education and outreach practitioners, presenting a free programme for Senior and Younger people based around the residual themes of Floating Coffins. A series of **educational workshops** will take place in spoken word & creative writing, photography, drama & expressive arts and visual arts between 9th February to 16th March 2009. They will be run by artists including **Panya Banjoko, Karen Frazer, Reach Higher Academy (TBC) and Zineb Sedira.**

New Art Exchange

- **New Art Exchange** launched with the venue with the opening of its inaugural exhibition, **Next We Change Earth** on Friday 5th September 2008.
- **New Art Exchange was awarded £5million** of funding from Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council, the Greater Nottingham Partnership, East Midlands Development Agency, Radford and Hyson Green New Deal for Communities, and European Regional Development Funding, and took 18 months to build. The organisation was a big winner in Arts Council England's the January 2008 review of national arts funding gaining a 58% increase in its annual funding grant. The award was made in recognition of the organisation's vital role in supporting visual and performing arts.
- **The building designed by architects Hawkins\Brown**, boasts 5 -storey building provides 1360 sqm space dedicated to visual arts with; galleries, workshop/performance/rehearsal space, artists in residence facilities, and a cafe. Distinguished from the red clay buildings of the neighborhood by its black brick façade and arrangement of frameless windows ranging in size (from 0.16 sqm to 4.84sqm), offers incidental and unexpected views into and out of the building.
- **Mission:** *The New Art Exchange ambition is to become a national centre of excellence promoting contemporary arts development within the cultural and creative industries, to deliver an innovative and exciting programme of activity to promote, support and advocate contemporary multi-cultural arts development in visual and performing arts and new media. To be a cultural centre led by African, African Caribbean and South Asian arts practice. To serve an international community from roots firmly embedded in the local area.*