

## ANOTHER ALBUM BY JOHANNA BILLING

EXHIBITION OPEN 26 JANUARY – 25 FEBRUARY 2007

PRIVATE VIEW: FRIDAY 26 JANUARY, 6.30 – 8.30 PM

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Set against the backdrop of singing cicadas and barking dogs *Another Album* (28 min/loop, 2006) takes place between sunset and dawn on the island of Krapanj on the Croatian coast. *Another Album* is a staging of what is, for this group of students and musicians, a regular coming together to play and sing songs. The camera cuts through this social mise en scene, highlighting detail; a leg, a dog, a caress. It is a recording of songs — for another type of musical album, both aural and visual and it is simultaneously a way of telling a story that asks to be told again and again.

A group of young adults in their late 20s move through an evening, from the preparation of food to the improvised singing and talking that occurs when wine has been flowing. In a convivial holiday atmosphere, spotlights and sound equipment appear in and out of shot, acknowledging that a film is being made. People come in and out of focus as they in turn remember different songs, bringing to the table personal memories, history and language to interpret and recollect from the golden Novi Val (New Wave) era in ex-Yugoslavia during the 70s and 80s. The accompanying liner notes tell us about the origin of these songs and the at times trivial discography facts of the bands and their respective musical careers — through which a history of a 'scene' comes alive. This scene provided some of the most diverse and progressive rock music in Eastern Europe but was interrupted by the outbreak of war and the break-up of the pan-Yugoslavian market, and has still not recovered.

So what at first glance could have appeared to be a nostalgic activity — a gathering of friends drinking together and revisiting times past through songs — could be seen as an act of resistance and revival. And we are presented with another way of looking at the effects of some of the everyday consequences and personal struggles that people deal with in the middle of changing situations. Perhaps the 'another' in the title becomes Billing's method for telling us a story that shows itself through a moment, a glimpse of something that not only once was, but still is in the present day.

Johanna Billing lives and works in Stockholm. Forthcoming exhibitions include: Collective Gallery, Edinburgh, June 2007; Dundee Centre of Contemporary Art, Sept 2007; Museum fur Gegenwartskunst, Basel, Sept 2007. Previous exhibitions include: *Try Again. Fail Again. Fail Better*, Momentum, Moss, 2006; *Modernautställningen*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, 2006; PS1 New York, 2006; *Don Quijote*, Witte de With, Rotterdam, 2006; *Gravity in Art*, De Appel, Amsterdam, 2006; *Istanbul Biennale*, 2005. In 2004 she participated in *West Balkan Air* a Nifca Recidency Program with *What, How and For Whom*, Zagreb, Croatia.

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