

**June 2009**

## Stop the bus

By: a-n



Michael Pinsky, 'Bus Stop 73a'

A remarkable place on the outskirts of Vienna, Macondo exists between an airport, a freeway and the imagination.

An evolving cartographic billboard shaped by memory and the hard realities of life, it's a settlement where successive waves of political refugees arriving from the current global wars have been thrown together with villagers that landed and reconstructed their lives here up to fifty years ago. Named in homage to the fictional village in Gabriel Garcia Marquez's novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, it is now home to 3,000 people.

For decades, people fought for a bus stop to link their community with the heart of Vienna. The Zinnergasse-Kaserne 73a bus stop launched in April is the outcome. UK-based artist Michael Pinsky worked with Austrian performance group Cabula and Macondo residents to realise this project. The resulting large-scale map has been mounted on a billboard wall within the bus stop. Those waiting for their bus as well as other passers by can add new information, missing names, locations, graffiti and teenage declarations of love and disdain, thereby becoming the primary actors in a continually evolving exhibition. Their additions will be absorbed into the plan, as the map is frequently reprinted over the following several months, reversing the conventional relationship between civic information and personal perception.

Michael Pinsky takes on the combined roles of urban planner, activist, researcher, resident and artist. Using video, performance, mapping and programming, his work responds site-specifically to physical and sociological space. He has exhibited at the ICA London; Modern Art Oxford; John Hansard Gallery Southampton; Centre de Cr'ation Contemporaine Tours, France, Armory Centre of the Arts LA, USA, and Contemporary Art Forum, Canada, and has major commissions in the public realm in the UK and Europe.

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