

## Alfredo Jaar

"Do you miss Chile?"

"No, not the Chile that I know. What I miss is Latin America, the Latin America that could be, that should be."

"Has it ever existed?"

"No, never. But I am working on that (laughs) well that is, probably what my work is all about!"

Jaar's work is about dichotomy. Between conquistadores and conquered; wealth and poverty; creativity and suppression. He never hectors or propagandizes - his spirit is too generous and poetic for that. Instead the audience is given a related series of clues from which to make its own associations and conclusions.

There is the use of dichotomy in his choice of materials. Between the slick conventions of advertising and the elemental substances of Third World life; the directness of photographic ~~directness~~ image and the allusions of text; the technological and the primitive.

Thus an advertisement shows a chauffeur putting an Andy Warhol painting into the back of an expensive car. The caption reads, "Rue Foch, 11 A.M. Sunny and mild - of course!" On its right a photograph by Jaar of the furrows of a ploughed field in Chile, with the caption "Chile 5 p.m. windy and cool - forever".

Both the Warhol and the furrows have the word "Art" painted in red upon them. In front of these photos a pile of dirt on the floor has a reproduction of the Warhol stuck

into it. The title of the piece, in bold letters is  
"1 + 1 = Art"

A large blow-up of camouflaged soldiers advances. Cropped at the neck they are headless and thus stateless. To the right, the caption from an ad reads "were all created equal. After that baby, you're on your own". On the floor, four black brooms are propped together, like rifles or the skeleton of a primitive shelter. They support a red neon light which illuminates a travel poster, "Its better in the Bahamas." From this tableaux to the photos on the wall, snakes a collection of clocks, all stopped. On the first day that this was exhibited, the Marines invaded Granada....

"The main thing that everyone must understand about us is that we are very very alone, and when we have company it is very bad company."

Alfredo Jasar

Born in Santiago, Chile in 1956

Lives in New York.

### Education

1981 B. A. ~~in Architecture~~ School of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Chile, Santiago.

### Selected Awards

1984 Artists Space, Committee for the Visual Arts, New York

1982 Pacific Foundation Fellowship Santiago.

### Selected Exhibitions

1984 "Art and Ideology." New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York

1983 "In/Out" Washington Project for the Arts, Washington D.C.

1982 Art Biennial of Paris. Musée d'Art Moderne ~~de~~  
~~La Ville~~ Paris.

1981 Fifth International Art Biennial, Valparaiso, Chile

1980 Centennial of the National Art Museum, National Art Museum, Santiago.

## Selected Bibliography

Brenson, Michael. "Art: Political Subjects" New York Times, February 24th, 1984

Lewis, Jo Ann. "Chilean Concepts", Washington Post April 7th, 1983.

Peraza, Nilda. ~~Art and Ideology~~. Catalog essay for "Art and Ideology", New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York 1984

Valdes, Adriana. Catalog essay for In/Out, Washington Project for the Arts, Washington D.C. 1983.

### Work in the Exhibition.

"Motherland, Motherland. What Mother, What Land?"

Installation.

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