

Media Information: Wednesday 28 January 2009

BALTIC

SHAHRYAR NASHAT PLAQUE (SLAB) 2007

Monday 2 February – Sunday 19 April
Ground Floor Cinema

Plaque (Slab) 2007, a video by **Shahryar Nashat**, will be presented at **BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art** from **Monday 2 February to Sunday 19 April**. The work will be the third film to be shown in the intimate cinema temporarily located on the Ground Floor.

The **6 minute 40 second** video is devoted to the celebrated Canadian pianist **Glenn Gould**. Incorporating original recordings by **Gould**, remixed by **Nashat**, it also visually captures **Gould's** live performance. In the **1964** TV recording, the pianist plays on a stage set with three imposing faux marble monuments. Within this final edit **Glenn Gould** appears in a short sequence of jaunty stop action animation. However **Plaque** mostly documents the manufacture of a concrete slab in a Berlin factory. The scale and form of the giant monolith slabs are reminiscent of those used in the 1964 film. The confrontation of these archive images with footage of the industrial production of a concrete slab raises the question of the role of the performer-interpreter.

Swiss artist **Nashat** was born in Geneva in **1975**. He lives and works in Berlin. His work is rooted in the conflict that a change of culture can stimulate and accelerate; in the confusion of the individual in times of social, religious and cultural discomfort. **Nashat's** vision captures these unexplained tensions not through written or spoken language but instead using gestures to express the unease of incomprehension and a materialisation of anxieties. In respect to this exhibition **Dominic Eichler** concludes: "Wordless **Plaque** suggests that meaning is a construction site where it is maybe better to peer into the wet concrete than worship at the monolith."

A free artist talk with **Shahryar Nashat** and **Tate Modern** curator **Stuart Comer** will take place at **BALTIC** on **Tuesday 7 April** from **6.30pm**. Booking for this event is advisable and can be arranged by calling **BALTIC** on **T: 0191 478 1810** or emailing events@balticmill.com.

For further information please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

BALTIC is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England. **BALTIC** presents a constantly changing, distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation, commissioning and communication of contemporary visual art. **BALTIC** has welcomed over 3 million visitors, since opening to the public in July 2002.

SHAHRYAR NASHAT BIOGRAPHY

Shahryar Nashat (Switzerland, 1975) lives in Berlin. In 2005, he represented Switzerland at the **Venice Biennale** with his installation **The Regulating Line**. Recent solo and group exhibitions include *Shifting Identities*, **Kunsthaus Zurich** (2008), *Placed High for Dramatic Impact*, **Galleria S.A.L.E.S.**, Rome (2008), *H-Box*, **Tate Modern** (2008), *Das Beispiel*, Attitudes, Geneva (2008) and **Art Unlimited** Basel (2008). His next solo show will take place in April at the **Neue Kunsthalle St. Gallen**.

GALLERY INFORMATION:

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Opening hours:

Monday - Sunday 10.00 - 18.00 (excluding Tuesday)

Tuesday 10.30 – 18.00

ADMISSION FREE

