



1ST
INDEPENDENCE
WEEKEND



2nd May 5:30 pm,
(until 4th of May)

Gallery Weekend, May 2008, Berlin.

Since a few years the most established galleries in the city organize special joint openings during the first weekend of May. They open also on Sunday and offer croissants to the visitors.

Concomitantly with this event and from the other side on the border (the line where the "Berlin Mauer" used to stand runs just in front of the gallery),

Bimal declares Independence.

The above mentioned galleries will be asked to send ambassadors to Bimal Projects, Zimmerstr.11, 10969 Berlin on the 2nd of May at 5.30 pm, half an hour before the gallery weekend begins. Nameplates of the galleries will hang on the window glass of Bimal Projects. As the diplomatic corps arrive, they will wear their relative name plates and stand for a group photo shooting with Bimal. With their presence they will officially accept and offer public recognition to Bimal Projects' Independence from the art federation of Berlin. The nameplates of the galleries that will not have sent ambassadors will remain on the glass window. The group photo will immediately be printed and shown during the weekend, together with the plates left in the window.



Only very recently (on the 2nd of April 2008), Bimal Projects was launched, as an activist, ironic and critical investigation of the new intricate web of cultural possibilities where an artist becomes curator, producer, mediator and agent provocateur. Blurring these distinctions becomes a radical gesture in a kind of realignment of what it means to be an artist in the institutional and community sense.

"Bimal" is an Indian name, it means clean, unblemished. He presents himself as an artist, as a curator and as a gallerist. In taking upon himself all these roles, and being the only artist of his own gallery, he chooses not to use his own ideas. In order to produce "some kind of art", Bimal asks other artists to provide ideas, which may only be in an incipient state, and bring them to fruition through a project. The artists who advance such an idea are acknowledged, and its earlier lack of development and fulfilment, for whatever reason, stands as part of the work.

Bimal works together with an unnamed and unmentioned art practitioner in order to realise the projects. What is at stake here is not so much an appropriation, but a shared engagement with the artist, that poses Bimal as neither an artist nor a curator, but as a new interstitial space between artist and curator. An exhibition of Bimal as a group exhibition is in fact an extension of pre-given ideas, acknowledging the artist who served as the point of departure, but takes on a life of its own. In other words it speaks of what takes place but is usually not referenced, for artists always derive ideas from other sources in their life, or which might have been expressed by the work of others. It reorients the concept of 'artistic influence' and places it in a transparent context of acknowledgement.

Bimal Saha (Lagos, Nigeria, 1968) is the front figure of "Bimal Projects". Born to an Indian father and a German mother, he has lived in Kolkatta and Essen. Having read Japanese studies and economics at Bochum University he later worked in the media communication area. For the last four years he has been working directly in the contemporary art world as assistant to artists, curators and galleries. He is now developing ideas and platforms for original projects.

For further information please contact mail@bimalprojects.de and www.bimalprojects.de
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Opening hours during Gallery Weekend: 10 am – 8 pm

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