

Press release

«*The Little Black Fish*»

A project by Anahita Bathaie, Laurent Mareschal and Tami Notsani - realized by Saied Bathaie.

Cinema MK2- Quai de Loire, 75019, Paris
From Saturday October, 5th 2013, at 19h
to Sunday October 6th, at 7.am.

This work conceptualized by the visual artists **Anahita BATHAIE, Laurent MARESCHAL, and Tami NOTSANI**, consists of a promotional poster for a movie which doesn't exist based on the story of «*The Little Black Fish*» by **Samad BEHRANGUI**. It will be installed on the facade of the MK2 movie theater, Quai de la Loire, Paris XIXème during 'Nuit Blanche' on October 5, 2013, from 7pm to 7am.

The poster (4x3 meters), has been painted by **Saied BATHAIE**, a former Iranian painter of movie posters who has exercised his former professional skills for the first time since 1989 as well as for the first time outside Iran. The idea is to intrigue the public and blur the line between fiction and reality, creating an environment that encourages the viewer to wonder: Is this really a new movie? « Anahita Bathaie introduced this work to Laurent and Tami through a performance of hers in 2003. Ten years later we have found a new way to raise interest in this politically engaged text that we believe has a universal voice. »

Samad Behrangi, an Iranian writer during the reign of Iran's Shah was only twenty-eight years old when he has found dead in 1967.

The story is told by an old fish. He speaks to his 12 000 children and grand-children. He describes the trip of a little black fish who leaves the tranquillity of his river to venture into the world. With wisdom and courage, the little black fish goes far.

The story was widely considered as a political allegory, and was forbidden in Iran before the Iranian revolution of 1978 by the political regime of the Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi. This allegory is more than ever relevant today.

Through this unusual project, the artists Anahita Bathaie, Laurent Mareschal and Tami Notsani, chose to introduce to a wider audience this relatively recent 'La Fontaine's fable' as well as reintroduce the lost art of movie banner painting. This proposal highlights a rebellious text which may have cost the life of its author. The painter who helped realize the final work is himself a bit like the hero of the story – he left his native country to explore and finally settle elsewhere - France.

The work presented here is a tribute to lost understandings, to a job that will no longer be practiced any more in its original form, and to a movie that may never be shown in Iranian cinemas.

More broadly, it also questions the legacy of expertise and the status of certain forms of crafts that have disappeared with the emergence of new technologies - that can only these days find their place in an art work or in a museum...