



MONASH UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART  
MEDIA KIT

MUMMA

# ADRIAN PACI: PER SPECULUM

1 FEBRUARY - 7 APRIL 2012

## INTRODUCTION

A profoundly thought-provoking 35mm film installation, Adrian Paci's *Per Speculum* draws upon cinema and myth to reflect upon narratives of exile, flight and resistance. In the opening scenes, a group of children are presented in an idyllic landscape setting, the reality of which is suddenly shattered and fractured, destabilising our perception and perspective.

The second half of the film sees the community of child actors congregate in a majestic tree. With the impenetrable wisdom and insouciance of youth, they reflect the sun's rays back towards the camera, blinding us in the process. As flashes of light rhyme with the clapping of the projector, the strobing, flickering effect is definitional of cinema, whilst evoking universal themes found in classical art through complex visual phenomena and allegory.

 **MONASH** University  
Museum of Art

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Tues–Fri 10am–5pm; Sat 12–5pm

Adrian Paci, *Per Speculum* 2006  
35mm film (still)  
7:10 min  
courtesy Kaufmann Repetto, Milan



## ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Originally a painter, Adrian Paci works in film, photography, sculpture and installation. Having fled his homeland Albania in 1997 during the civil war, his practice regularly explores the experience of exile and immigration. Paci addresses themes such as mobility, displacement, globalisation and cultural identity as a way to explore how personal histories are defined by social and political circumstances. His works are both private and universal, and present a complex synthesis of autobiography and collective narrative, documentation and dramatisation, fiction and reality.

Paci was born in Shkoder, Albania in 1969 and studied at the Academy of Arts in Tirana, Albania. He currently lives and works in Milan, Italy. Paci has held numerous individual exhibitions including shows at Istanbul Modern 2010; Kunsthaus Zurich 2010; Center for Contemporary Art, Tel Aviv 2008; Kunstverein Hannover 2008; Milton Keynes Gallery, UK 2007; P.S.1, New York 2005; Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston 2005; Baltic Art Center, Sweden 2003; and Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Bergamo, Italy 2003.

Selected group exhibitions include *Seeing is Believing*, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin 2011; *Bodily Choreography*, Zacheta – National Gallery of Art, Warsaw 2011; *Integration and Resistance in the Globalization Era*, 10th Havana Biennial, 2009; *Street & Studio: An Urban History of Photography*, Tate Modern, London 2008; *Exposed Memory*, Hungarian University of Fine Arts, Budapest 2006; *Zones of Contact*, 15th Biennale of Sydney, 2006. In 1999 Paci represented Albania in its first national pavilion at the 48th Venice Biennale, and participated in subsequent Venice Biennales in 2005 and 2011.

His work is held in significant public collections including Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; MAXXI, Rome; MOCA – Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Solomon Guggenheim Foundation, New York. Paci was awarded the Quadriennale Prize in 2008 and the Premio Pino Pascali Prize in 2007.

Adrian Paci is represented by Kaufmann Repetto, Milan.

For further information and extended bibliography see:  
[www.kaufmannrepetto.com/gallery/artists](http://www.kaufmannrepetto.com/gallery/artists)

## EXHIBITION DATES

1 February - 7 April 2012

Opening function: Saturday 4 February 2012, 3.00 - 5.00pm

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

A series of artists talks, forums and workshops will be held to coincide with Adrian Paci: *Per Speculum*.

See MUMA's website for details: [www.monash.edu.au/muma](http://www.monash.edu.au/muma)

## MEDIA

For all media enquiries please contact Rosemary Forde on 03 9905 4360 or [rosemary.forde@monash.edu](mailto:rosemary.forde@monash.edu)