

**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

76 GRAND STREET NEW YORK NY 10013



Sislej Xhafa
Motion in Paradise
February 23, 2002 6-8PM

Motion in Paradise, a new work by Sislej Xhafa, will be presented on Saturday, February 23, 2002 from 6 to 8 PM at the Deitch Projects 18 Wooster Street gallery. The work features spiritual leaders from five of the world's major religions vigorously working out with gymnastic equipment. The gymnastic equipment and workout gear will remain on view through Tuesday, February 26th.

The work addresses the unity, diversity, and complexity of the world's religions and explores how their simultaneous practice can result in irony and harmony. The work follows the training of the body and the mind as a spiritual path that includes all and excludes none. By activating the body and the mind to an accelerated speed, one creates a healthy friction and a fulfilling energy that is the same for all.

Sislej Xhafa's work involves an artistic intervention into social structures. His recent projects have included the decoration of a drab Belgian police station, the Royal Philharmonic of Antwerp playing Mozart and Beethoven while wearing the black knit balaclava face masks favored by terrorists, and a crowd pushing a bus covered with reflective material through downtown Istanbul.

CONTINUED ON REVERSE

Xhafa, an ethnic Albanian, was born in Kosovo in 1970. He began his artistic career in Italy and was awarded the Querini-Furla prize for the most promising emerging artist in 2000. His work has been included in the 2001 Istanbul Biennale, *Casino 2001* in Ghent, *Manifesta 3*, 2000, and the opening exhibition of the Palais de Tokyo, Paris, in January 2002. He now lives and works in New York.

**GALLERY HOURS 12 – 6, TUESDAY – SATURDAY
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT
JULIA CHIANG AT 212-343-7300**