

*****Press Release for Immediate Attention*****

Void and a/political are pleased to announce 'Torture', a new body of work by artist Andres Serrano curated by Conor McFeely.

Exhibition launch – 7.30 - 9pm Saturday 8 October 2016, Artists Talk – 6.30pm

Over the last year, in the French industrial town of Maubourguet, Andres Serrano assumed the role of the torturer. Using The Foundry as his black-site, he photographed more than 40 models in improvised positions with devices produced on-site by local residents. Both mental and physical techniques were utilised with the participation of his subjects, under the guidance of a retired Commando from the French Special Forces.

This Danse Macabre recalls and points us to images and sources as widespread as Nazi Concentration Camps and Stasi interrogation centres to Abu Ghraib in Iraq and The Hooded Men in Northern Ireland who were subjected to reoccurring 'deep interrogation' tactics comprised of five techniques, wall-standing, hooding, subjection to noise, deprivation of sleep, and deprivation of food and drink.

The vast compositions have been elevated to the status of Renaissance altarpieces and are among the largest images the artist has ever produced.

Since the 1980's Andres Serrano's work has continued to spark debate and raise questions about censorship, taste, public decency and acceptable modes of expression. In 1987 Serrano received international attention for his work 'Piss Christ', igniting a national debate on the freedom of artistic expression and the public financing of controversial artworks. Also included in this exhibition are two works from this era, Piss Christ and Black Supper from the Immersion series, both having shaped the artist's global profile.

"Torture almost seems to be a part of the human condition"
Andres Serrano, VICE 2016

Recent solo exhibitions by Andres Serrano include Uncensored photographs, Musées Royaux des Beaux- Arts de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium (2016); The Denizens of Brussels / Residents of New York Congrès (gare), Brussels, Belgium, organized by the Musées Royaux des Beaux Arts de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium (2016); Ainsisoit-il ? Collection Lambert en Avignon, Avignon, France (2016); Ainsi soit-il Château de Villeneuve, Fondation Emile Hugues, Vence, France (2015); Redemption Fotografiska Museum of Stockholm, Sweden (2015).

Notes to editors

This is Andres Serrano's first solo exhibition in Ireland.

Torture was initiated and produced by a/political. All exhibited works are from the a/political collection.

a/political is a not-for-profit organization, collaborating with socio-political artists. a/political, initiate, produce and tour large-scale projects world-wide. With offices based in London, a/political opened The Foundry as an experimental art space, hosting ambitious projects outside the controls of the contemporary art market. Artists are invited to produce new work in the neighboring factories. In addition, a/political acquires artworks for permanent installation at The Foundry to compliment the collection currently located in London.

Andres Serrano was born in New York City in 1950. Serrano received international attention for the scandal around his work *Piss Christ* (1987), igniting a national debate on the freedom of artistic expression and the public financing of controversial artworks. He went on to produce series including the *KKK*, *The Morgue* and *Shit*. Throughout his confrontational and challenging work, Serrano unpicks the hypocrisies and highlights similarities within religious, political and social constructs.

'Torture' by artist Andres Serrano opens at 7.30pm on Saturday 8 October at Void, Patrick Street, Derry,N.Ireland. Prior to the opening there will be an Artists Talk at 6.30pm.

All Welcome.

Admission Free.

For further info or to arrange an interview please contact Aisling Bradley (Press and Marketing Coordinator) at Void marketing@derryvoid.com (02871308080)

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