



SCREENING AND COMMENTARY
LAURA POITRAS: "THE OATH"
Wednesday, October 6, 7 to 9 p.m.
Rich Theatre, Woodruff Arts Center
FREE – ONE NIGHT ONLY

Atlanta—September 24, 2010 –The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center brings “The Oath,” an award-winning documentary film by Laura Poitras, the director of the Oscar-nominated “My Country, My Country,” to Atlanta for a special, one-night only screening on Oct. 6, 7 to 9 p.m. Poitras will be in attendance and will lead a Q&A with the audience after the screening.

The screening takes place at the Rich Theatre, Woodruff Arts Center, 1280 Peachtree St., Atlanta, Ga. 30309. The program is free; however, seating is limited and must be reserved. Tickets are available through the Woodruff Arts Center Box Office at 404.733.5000 or online at www.woodruffcentertickets.org.

This unique program is organized by the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center and is presented in partnership with the Woodruff Arts Center and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights.

“The Oath” is a spectacularly gripping documentary that unspools like a great political thriller. It’s the cross-cut tale of two men whose fateful meeting propelled them on divergent courses with Al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden, 9/11, Guantanamo Bay Prison and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Abu Jandal is a taxi driver in Sana’a, Yemen; Salim Hamdan is a Guantanamo Bay prisoner and the first man to face the controversial military tribunals. Jandal and Hamdan’s intertwined personal trajectories—how they became bin Laden’s bodyguard and driver respectively—act as prisms that serve to explore and contextualize a world which has confounded Western media. As Hamdan’s trial progresses, his military lawyers challenge fundamental flaws in the court system. The charismatic Jandal dialogues with his young son, Muslim students and journalists, and chillingly unveils the complex evolution of his belief system post-9/11.

Winner of Best Documentary Cinematography at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival and many additional awards at film festivals around the world, “The Oath” offers a rare window into a hidden realm—and the international impact of the U.S. War on Terror.

About the Artist

Poitras was nominated for an Academy Award, Independent Spirit Award and Emmy Award for “My Country, My Country” (2006). “The Oath” (2010), received the Excellence in Cinematography Award at the Sundance Film Festival and Jury Award Best Documentary at the Edinburgh Film Festival among many other accolades. Poitras received a Peabody Award and was nominated for an Emmy and an Independent Spirit Award for “Flag Wars” (2003; made with Linda Goode Bryant), a documentary about gentrification that premiered at the SXSW Film Festival and won the award for Best Documentary.

Her films have been recognized at film festivals including Berlinale, Full Frame, SXSW, New Directors/New Films, San Francisco International Film Festival, Edinburgh Film Festival and many others. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship (2007-2008), and a Media Arts Fellowship from

the Tribeca Film Institute. She has attended the Sundance Institute's Documentary Story & Edit Lab as both a Fellow (2005, 2009) and creative advisor (2007, 2008, 2010). Her work has received support from the Independent Television Service (ITVS), P.O.V./American Documentary, Creative Capital, Sundance Documentary Film Program, Gucci Tribeca Documentary Fund, Vital Projects Fund, NYSCA, Tribeca Film Institute, Rockefeller Foundation, Jerome Foundation, Chicken and Egg Pictures, the MacDowell Artist Colony and others.

Before making documentaries, Poitras worked as a professional chef. She teaches documentary filmmaking at Yale University and lives in New York City.

Laura Poitras will be exhibiting “O’ Say Can You See?”, her first film and video installation in a gallery setting, at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, from Oct. 9 to Dec. 12, 2010.

About the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center:

The Atlanta Contemporary Art Center is a non-profit, non-collecting institution dedicated to the creation, presentation, and advancement of contemporary art by emerging and established artists. ACAC creates a diverse cultural landscape for artists, arts professionals, and the art-interested public through its exhibitions, educational programming, and studio artist program.

Founded in 1973 as a grassroots artist cooperative, ACAC plays a vital role in Atlanta’s cultural landscape by making contemporary art accessible for everyone and by supporting artists and their creative process. ACAC presents 8-10 exhibitions per year featuring consequential artists from the local to international art scenes and organizes approximately 50 diverse educational offerings a year. ACAC is the only local institution providing subsidized studio space to 14 working artists removing cost as a barrier to the creative process. Visit www.thecontemporary.org to learn more.

ACAC is open Tue/Wed 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thurs 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri/Sat 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5, \$3 for students and seniors, free for members, children under age 12 and free all day on Thur. Free parking available.

About the National Center for Civil and Human Rights:

The National Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta will commemorate the historic struggle for African-American freedom and equality as well as present the continuing story of human rights efforts around the world. The Center will be a space for ongoing dialogue, study and potential resolution of current and future freedom struggles for all people, at the local, national and international levels. For more information, please visit www.cchrpartnership.org.

For more information, contact: Stuart Horodner, artistic director, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, at 404-688-1970 x 214 or shorodner@thecontemporary.org

High and Low-res digital images from “The Oath” are available. Please contact Jennifer Long, membership and outreach manager, Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, at 404-688.1970 x213 or jlong@thecontemporary.org

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