



Renata Poljak, *Ruta and the Monument*, 2007, still from two-channel video installation.

RENATA POLJAK *Split, Croatia*

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE | SEPTEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 13, 2008 | ART IN GENERAL

Art in General resident artist **RENATA POLJAK** is a Paris-based video artist originally from Split, Croatia. Her work explores the dramatic political upheaval and violence the Balkan region has undergone since the early 1990s, and the ramifications of those changes in the lives of émigrés throughout Western Europe. Poljak's videos and installations often combine staged and even fantastical situations with documentation of real-life misunderstandings and misuses of power.

Her filmic explorations meld autobiographical incidents—her experience as a woman in the former Yugoslavia and in France, for example—and scenarios reflecting the social and political consequences of Croatia's move from socialism to free market capitalism. With subjects ranging from the memorialization of the Holocaust to the trauma of post-civil war Serbio-Croatian relations, Poljak's work investigates how transitional political and economic moments can reignite brutal social customs with deleterious effects for women and ethnic or religious minorities.

—Eva Díaz, Curator