

ANGRY

REPRESENTING THE RADICAL

# ANGRY

**What is radicalisation? Who is radical and who says so? Is radicalisation (always) a threat to our society, as the media contends?**

**ANGRY will reflect on radicalisation in our society, its nature and its representation in the media. The project will deal with these questions in the form of an exhibition, a website, an iApp, schools workshops, debates, lectures and a film programme.**

Radicalisation amongst left- and rightwing sympathisers, religious extremists, as well as hooligans and loners who resort to violence seemingly without reason, will be covered from multiple perspectives. Work by visual artists, photographers and filmmakers will represent their position towards the radical. This position will be juxtaposed with analytical presentations reflecting on the role of mass media in shaping the image of the radical. Also included will be media produced by radical youngsters themselves in order to spread their message

(and radicalised imagery) through the mainstream media and on the internet.

People do not radicalise on their own, but as part of a group which functions within a closed, socially constructed 'reality' and identity. Group members share feelings of injustice, relative deprivation, humiliation and discrimination. Some take the activist route to promote or prevent change.

Gradually, anger and frustration build up and may lead to approval of violent acts and eventually planning and carrying these out.

The current political situation in the Netherlands demands more consideration of this phenomenon. ANGRY aims to meet this demand from an artistic point of view, combined with research into the role the media plays in creating our image of young people who strive for a certain ideal. But how do young people themselves feel about those media reports? To answer this question,

material will be generated during workshops held prior to the exhibition. The goal of the educational programme is to turn the perception of the radical from an abstract into a more personal one. A web game with a questionnaire will be developed as a tool to trigger the discussion.

All elements of ANGRY will show that the radical is of all times and belongs to all social and cultural groups of our society. In short: from vegan to animal rights extremist, from pacifist to terrorist, ANGRY does not judge or criticise a position, but rather explores and questions it.

**Paradox** has teamed up with a number of partners for this project: **Nederlands Fotomuseum Rotterdam** (exhibition venue), **Prospektor** (research journalists), **Kosmopolis Rotterdam** (platform for intercultural dialogue) and **LantarenVenster** (cinema).

## POSITIONS:

- 1. WORKS BY INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS, FILMMAKERS AND VISUAL ARTISTS** dealing with the issues of violence, aggression, resistance and the image of the (younger) radical will broaden the perspectives of the subject. They approach radicalisation as a complex process linked closely to that of identity formation.
- 2. A COLLECTION OF MEDIA IMAGES AND TEXTS** looks at the way in which the radical is portrayed in the mainstream media and the (radical) imagery presented by radical individuals and groups themselves.
- 3. MATERIALS CREATED BY THE YOUNG PARTICIPANTS** in the educational programme bring 'direct speech' into the exhibition. Young people, as the group which often adheres to radical opinions, will address the subject as they see it.

**INFOGRAPHICS** represents statistical data on radicalisation among youth in the Netherlands and abroad.



**ANGRY - REPRESENTING THE RADICAL** Scheduled to run at the Nederlands Fotomuseum Rotterdam from January till May 2011 • **CONCEPT:** Bas Vroege (Paradox) • **CURATED BY:** Iris Sikking (Paradox) • **CURATORIAL ADVICE:** Frits Gierstberg (Nederlands Fotomuseum) • **PARTNERS:** [www.nederlandsfotomuseum.nl](http://www.nederlandsfotomuseum.nl) • [www.paradox.nl](http://www.paradox.nl) • [www.prospektor.nl](http://www.prospektor.nl) • **MORE INFORMATION:** Iris Sikking ([is@paradox.nl](mailto:is@paradox.nl))

PARADOX creates projects in photography, video and media related arts. The interaction between social, economic and technological change is central to most thematic and monographic projects developed. PARADOX' activities include travelling exhibitions, film production, book and electronic publishing and organising workshops and symposiums.