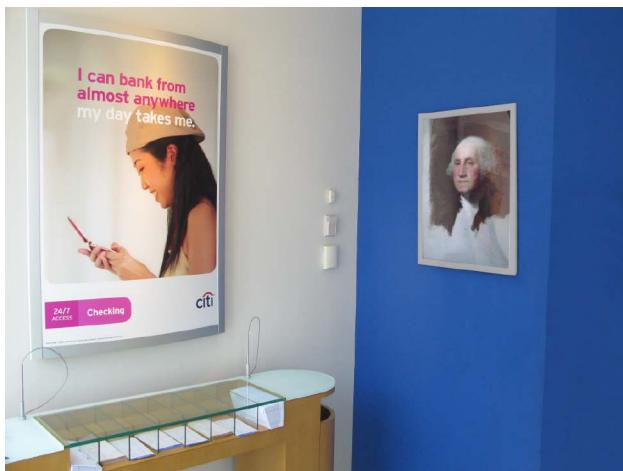


artists' media intervention

IN THE BOSTON'S WEEKLY DIG
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

contact: mike mandel - mike@thecorner.net
617.926.3233



Mike Mandel has been making public art, both temporary and permanent projects, since the 1970s. He has authored photo-based books including *Myself: Timed Exposures*, 1971, *Seven Never Before Published Portraits of Edward Weston*, 1974, the *Baseball-Photographer Trading Cards*, 1975, *Evidence* (co-authored with Larry Sultan) and *Making Good Time*, 1989. He has been a recipient of several NEA grants and a Fulbright Fellowship. His work was exhibited in the Berlin Biennale and at PhotoEspaña in Madrid. He currently teaches in the Studio at Tufts program at The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Chantal Zakari is a designer and an artist. She authored *The Turk & The Jew*, 1998 with Mandel, and using a pseudonym, *webAffairs*, 2005. She has had solo shows of her work in the U.S. and in Turkey. She has given book readings in the form of performances in the U.K., Netherlands, Canada and the U.S. Zakari is a faculty member in the Text and Image Arts Area at The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

The couple's most recent collaborative project is "The State of Ata: The Contested Imagery of Power in Turkey" 2010 (Eighteen Publications, distributed by D.A.P.)

Boston artists Mike Mandel and Chantal Zakari have created a full page artwork in the Weekly Dig, distributed the week of September 14, 2011.

The page titled "**The Return of the Father**" is a mock journalistic essay that includes photographs and interviews about the rising excitement of people displaying the portrait of George Washington throughout the Boston area. For the project the artists temporarily installed and photographed Washington portraits in local businesses and homes.

This artwork was made in dialogue with their book "**The State Of Ata: The Contested Imagery of Power in Turkey**" (2010) where they documented the use of the imagery of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the revolutionary hero of the secular Turkish Republic and its first president who westernized Turkey after World War I.

The overriding aspect of the Weekly Dig piece has been to recognize the imagery of a powerful leader and make it relevant to an American audience. They wanted to emulate the feeling for the ubiquitous presence of Atatürk's imagery in Turkey. This phenomenon of the state created cult father figure is unfamiliar to the American experience.

Mandel and Zakari's intention is to create the illusion of a Boston obsessed with the image of George Washington that correlates to the Turkish experience of Atatürk. The article employs some of the same passionate statements made to them about the Great Leader. Only in this instance the symbol is Washington.

This intervention is in conjunction with the exhibition
7 Turkish Artists: Mike Mandel & Chantal Zakari
September 13 - November 12, 2011
Photographic Resource Center at Boston University
832 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston MA 02215 617.975.0606

Opening reception: Wednesday, September 21, 6:30 pm

Panel discussion with Jenny White, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Boston University
Thursday, October 27 at 6:30 pm
705 Commonwealth Avenue

