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**BRUNO SERRALONGUE**

For this exhibition Bruno Serralongue has chosen to show seven photographs from the series in progress *Calais*.

On 5 November 2002 the refugee camp at Sangatte, in France's Pas-de-Calais département, was closed by Nicolas Sarkozy, Minister of the Interior, with the French and British governments hailing the event as a great victory in the fight against illegal immigration and the crime it was said to be generating. First opened in September 1999 and run by the Red Cross, the centre – in what was originally a depot for the machines used to dig the Channel Tunnel – housed up to 1200 migrants at a time, mainly Afghans, Kosovars, Iraqis and Iranians in search of a passage to England. Neither the closure of the camp or the intensified police repression that followed did anything to stem the flow of migrants: Calais remains the French city nearest to England and its port's capacity for trucks in transit is constantly being increased. Local community associations helping the migrants estimate that there are currently some 400–600 people living on wastelands and in the woods around the city.

Begun in July 2006, the series is so far made up of 15 photographs and a slide projection titled *Risky Lines*.

We are pleased to accompany the exhibition with the presentation of *La Otra*: photographs by Bruno Serralongue with texts by Jordi Vidal and Joerg Bader. On 1 January 2006 Subcommandante Marcos, the charismatic leader of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) set out from his enclave in southeastern Mexico on a year-long political campaign embracing the entire country. Bruno Serralongue followed the group and the result was this series of 15 images.

\* *La Otra*, 2007, jointly published by the Centre de la Photographie in Geneva and Les Presses du Réel, Dijon, 98 pp.

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