

## Emily Jacir

(Ramallah, Palestine, 1970))

In the video installation *ENTRY DENIED (a concert in Jerusalem)*, 2003, three musicians — Marwan Abado, Peter Rosmanith and Franz Hautzinger — are filmed playing in a theater. They receive no applause because the concert occurs in the absence of an audience. Emily Jacir organized their performance in Vienna, after their concert, originally scheduled for Jerusalem and Bethlehem, could not take place. As the artist explains in the text that accompanies the installation, Abado, an Austrian citizen of Palestinian origin, was detained by the authorities upon his arrival at the Tel Aviv airport. Held for twenty-four hours, he was then put back on a plane bound for Vienna. Although Abado had been officially invited by the Austrian Embassy in Tel Aviv and by the United Nations Development Program, the Israeli authorities prohibited him from entering the country. The only stated explanation for access being denied was “security reasons.” According to the artist’s instructions, the video is projected on a specially fabricated structure, a temporary wall positioned so that it blocks the normal flow of visitors in the space of the museum. Like other works by the artist, *ENTRY DENIED* is inspired by real facts, by events related to the many human implications of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Political and personal, Jacir’s art recounts the collective Palestinian drama through individual stories that at times entail the artist’s first-hand involvement. Born in Palestine and holding an American passport, the artist continuously lives the experience of someone destined to a perpetual journey, directed toward a home and a country that belong more to memory than to reality. (MB)