



galleria tiziana di caro

PRESS RELEASE

Artist: Damir Očko
title: The Age of Happiness
exhibition opening: Saturday 13 February 2010, h. 19.00
location: Galleria Tiziana Di Caro
address: Salerno, via delle Botteghe, 55 – 84121
info: +39 (0)89 9953141 – info@tizianadicaro.it
opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 15:00 alle 20:00 or by appointment
exhibition closing: Saturday 3 April 2010

Galleria Tiziana Di Caro is delighted to feature Damir Očko (Zagreb, 1977) in a solo exhibition entitled The Age of Happiness, opening on Saturday 13 February 2010, 19.00 to 22.00.

Video, sculpture, drawing, writing and music are the media used by this Croatian artist, whose works are populated by solemn characters and where all is pictured within complex environments recalling reality only in a few formal traits. The body of the works on show is very complex, packed with elements and completed by an allure which unfolds in various directions. The title of the exhibition is named after the video on show at the Gallery, The Age of Happiness, in which the artist analyses the differences in perception as a medium in the relationship between the human being and the reality in which he dwells, giving life to a structured system needed to analyze different elements from reality and to later relate them to each other.

A glass cabinet shows various kinds of works: a 280-page artist's book connected with the video and containing a collection of graphic signs inspired by a sound coding system already in use in the Sixties by electronic music composers. Its formal aspect is rather abstract and contains a powerful sound source connected with The Age of Happiness, a sort of collection of signs which also have a story-telling function. A notebook of cuttings and collage work referring in particular to the first scene of the video, where a film shot progressively gets closer to the sun, unfocused and disturbed by the blinding intensity of the light. A page containing a paradox by René Daumal, of special importance to the artist. The text here is graphically organized to look like a formal composition, where the word, the letter and the sentence take the place of the trait and the sign, in order to become themselves symbols and meanings. Another octagonal glass cabinet contains a schematic model with various elements from the film, such as the harmony based on the work of Alexander Nikolayevich Scriabin, or references to unusual musical instruments such as the glassharmonica and the ondes Martenot.

The whole project is completed by several series of drawings intended not as an appendix to the exhibition, but as an element explaining its structure. Drawing, which the artist intends as a tool to clarify the uncertainties that anyone may meet along their creative path, nevertheless keeps its own independence; each drawing features elements connected with reality, and although these are plunged in surreal settings, the flexibility of the means used for these works never jeopardizes sense and formal coherence.

Damir Očko was born 1977 in Zagreb. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Zagreb. He presented his work in several galleries and museums, in solo exhibitions at the Lothringer 13-Kunsthalle Munich, Miroslav Kraljevic Gallery, Zagreb; at the Tirana Institute of Contemporary Art and at the Zagreb Museum of Contemporary Art among others. Recent group exhibitions were at the Centre for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski in Warsaw, Le Fresnoy-National Center for Contemporary Art, Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Rijeka, National Centre for Contemporary Art in Moscow, Nassauischer Kunstverein, Wiesbaden, Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb, Croatia, International Triennial of Contemporary Art, National Gallery, Prague; at the Municipal Centre for Contemporary Art, Nicosia, Australian Centre for Photography, Sydney and at Angel Row Gallery, Nottingham among others. His films were recently screened at the 4th Busan International Video Festival, Busan; at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin; at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid and at the Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume, Paris. Damir Očko was granted resident fellowships from the Akademie Schloss Solitude, Helsinki International Artist-in Residence Programme (HIAP), the Tirana Institute of Contemporary Art, and Kulturkontakt Vienna.

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