



PRESS RELEASE

Artist: Damir Ocko
title: We saw nothing but the uniform blue of the Sky
exhibition opening: Friday 2 March 2012, h.19.00
location: Galleria Tiziana Di Caro
address: via delle Botteghe 55, 84121 – Salerno
info: +39 (0)89 9953141 – press@tizianadicaro.it
opening times: Tuesday to Saturday, 15.00 – 20.00 or by appointment
exhibition closing: Saturday 5 May 2012

Galleria Tiziana Di Caro is delighted to announce the second solo exhibition of the works by Damir Ocko (Zagreb, 1977) titled *We saw nothing but the uniform blue of the Sky*, opening Friday 2 March 2012, at 19.00.

The exhibition revolves around *We saw nothing but the uniform blue of the Sky*, Ocko's latest video, shot in 2011 in Dublin during his Paths Crossing production and research residency at Temple Bar Gallery + Studios.

"They were looking at the squid. They were not looking at anything. They saw nothing, they looked at nothing. They don't know how to look." (Sea Gypsy explaining to CBS reporter how come his people survived the 2004 tsunami and Burmese boatmen did not.)

The man whose reading has been severely affected by the fact he has a speaking dysfunction: stammering, delivers the poem with an extraordinary effort. His effort of pronouncing words and sentences (exhaustingly rehearsed for weeks) not only provide the main conceptual and esthetical frame for the whole work, but also emphasizes the acoustics of words and their meaning: to say poetical and political weight of the vocalized word. Furthermore, film has been divided into two separate sections: black and white scenes that follow seemingly unrelated characters and events on the beach, like playful dogs, people walking, or kite surfing; while the "yellow" scenes (result of the use of the low pressure sodium lights instead the standard film lights) depict the more abstract interplay of three methods of signaling: light, smoke and sounds.

"Yellow" scenes therefore hold the visual and acoustic sirens, precisely composed for the group of woodwinds (played by over-blowing the air rather than producing clear tones) and electronics, reflecting the structures and textures of the vocal "effort".

The video *We saw nothing but the uniform blue of the Sky* is running for the *T-HT Award*, issued by the Museum of Contemporary Art of Zagreb.

Damir Ocko was born 1977 in Zagreb (Croatia), where he studied at the Academy of Fine Arts.

Solo exhibitions: 2011, On Ulterior Scale, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf (Germany); 26th Music Biennale, Zagreb (Croatia) – 2010, Event Horizon, Kunstverein Leipzig, Leipzig (Germany), The Age of Happiness, Galleria Tiziana Di Caro, Salerno (Italy), Screening Room, Blumen, Leipzig (Germany).

Group exhibitions: 2012, T-HT award, Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb, Zagreb (Croatia); 2011, Cities - visionary places, Torrance Art Museum, Los Angeles (USA); After the Crash, Museo Orto Botanico, Rome (Italy); Jour de Fête, Private Art Space Gallery, Barcelona (Spain); Picture of Sound, Lazareti, Dubrovnik / Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb (Croatia); Mit Seife und Gabeln, Kunstraum Kreuzlingen (Germany).

His films where recently screened at the Southern Panoramas, 17th International Contemporary Art Festival SESC_Videobrasil, Sao Paulo (Brazil), at the 98 WEEKS Project Space (Beirut), Sogn og Fjordane Kunstmuseum and Nordic Art Center Dale in Norway, at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, in Berlin, at the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid and at the Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume, Paris.

Damir Ocko was granted resident fellowships from: Kunsthalle Krems, Krems an der Donau (Austria), Temple Bar Gallery and Studios, Dublin (Ireland), Nordic Art Center Dale (Norway), Künstlerresidenz Blumen, Leipzig (Germany).