

MAGAZZINO D'ARTE MODERNA

ELISABETTA BENASSI



Opening, Monday 4 December 2006 - 7 p.m.

The Magazzino d'Arte Moderna is pleased to present **3**, Elisabetta Benassi's first solo exhibition in the gallery. For this occasion, the artist will show three new works whose symbolic implications revolve around and converge in ***Yield to Total Elation***, 2006, a video installation composed of three simultaneous projections. Set in Trentino Alto Adige in the sand quarry of Tret in Val di Non, the protagonist of the work is an automobile that goes round in circles from sundown to sunrise without stopping, repeating its autistic movement to infinity. Time and space thus appear absorbed and dissipated in a sort of infinite repetition: like the car that moves in circles, the machines of the quarry devour the mountain tirelessly. In an isolated but visually suggestive location, primordial forces seem to irresistibly tend towards a state of final equilibrium, where every ulterior possibility becomes unimaginable, and the unlimited fervour evoked by the title an ironic illusion. *Yield to Total Elation* is a work about energy, consumption and time, where a true beginning and end don't exist.

Suolo #3 and ***Suolo #4*** are two large-scale photographs from a series of portraits - true maps in 1:1 scale - of depot and car wrecking grounds began by the artist in 2005. Completely autonomous, marginal places in which entropy has taken hold, to the point of making everything useless and unrecognisable. They appear to us like horizontal deserts where distance and the normal relation between the observer and the observed is demolished. They are emblems of the periphery of the western world, allegories of real time.

The show concludes with ***Senza titolo (La vie à credit)***, 2006. On a wooden table a mechanical arm performs a circular movement which gradually, over an apparently interminable length of time, will incise the entire thickness of the surface. Here returns the idea of time that winds around itself, of the implacable force expressed by a mechanism that sabotages its very function.

Elisabetta Benassi was born in 1966 in Rome, where she lives and works. She has exhibited extensively both in Italy and abroad with work featured in exhibitions including: *Constellations*, Artissima Lingotto (Turin 2006) • *Highlights from the KunstFilmBiennale Köln*, KW Institute for Contemporary Art (Berlin 2006) • *Human Game. Winner and Losers/Vincitori e vinti*, Fondazione Pitti Discovery, (Florence 2006) • *Italy Made in Art: Now*, MOCA, Museum of Contemporary Art (Shanghai 2006) • *Abandoned in Place*, Base (Florence 2005) • *Sequence 2#*, *Mirage*, Random Gallery (Paris 2005) • *KunstFilmBiennale Cologne*, International Competition Museum Ludwig (Cologne 2005) • *Drive*, Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Bologna (Bologna 2005) • *Circular*, Stadio "Meazza" San Siro (Milan 2005) • *Prospectif Cinéma*, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre George Pompidou (Paris 2005) • *Videozone*, *II Biennale Internazionale di Videoarte* (Tel Aviv 2004) • *I nuovi mostri: Una storia italiana*, Fondazione Nicola Trussardi (Milan, Venice 2004) • MACRO Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Roma (Rome 2004) • *I moderni/The Moderns*, Castello di Rivoli (Turin 2003) • American Academy in Rome (Rome 2003) • *Moltitudini-Solitudini* Museion (Bolzano 2003) • *Manifesta 4* (Frankfurt 2002) • *II Berlin Biennale* (Berlin 2001) • P.S.1 New York, *Special Projects* (New York 2000) • A selection of her works are also published in the anthology *Cream 3*, edited by Phaidon.

Opening hours: Tuesday/Friday 11/15 - 16/20 - Saturday 11/13 - 16/20