



CASTELLO DI RIVOLI

MUSEO D'ARTE CONTEMPORANEA

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PRESS RELEASE

Fellowship for Young Italian Artists

Presentation of the project by Gianni Caravaggio, winner of the 2005 fellowship.

Curated by Marcella Beccaria

November 10 – December 10, 2006

The 2005 Friends and Supporters of Castello di Rivoli's Fellowship for Young Italian Artists has been awarded to artist Gianni Caravaggio (Rocca di San Giovanni, Chieti, 1968).

In the artist's own words, his project for Castello di Rivoli was conceived as "a mental voyage toward the limits of the imagination, through necessary geographic displacements." A philosophy scholar with an interest in contemporary physics, Caravaggio has spent time at scientific research institutes in Germany and France, interacting with physicists who are investigating themes connected to the origins and form of the universe. For the artist, these in-depth studies have represented an opportunity for dialogue, over the course of which he has further defined the area of his own research. The room set aside for Gianni Caravaggio's project contains some of the works he developed during this period. The hypothesis that one can observe the universe from an external point is fundamental to *Cosmicomics* (*Cosmicomica*). A marble sculpture in stark black or white, the work is deliberately reduced in scale, evoking the possibility that it can be handled. According to the artist, it alludes to the "fantasy of seeing the universe from the outside." In contrast, the subject of *Awaiting a New World* (*Attendere un mondo nuovo*) is a reflection on the possible creation of an unexpected order, or disorder. In fact, this sculpture has an unstable form, and its every oscillation corresponds to a different dispersion in space of the substances with which it is covered.

Waste of Absolute Energy (*Spreco di energia assoluta*) is shaped like an irregular polyhedron, at the center of which is a white marble parallelepiped. The encounter between the two elements triggers a process that corresponds to the passage of matter from a solid to a liquid state. The principle of transformation contained in the work is subject to temporal laws and, conditioned by them, can be interpreted as "an act of existence."

The Fellowship for Young Italian Artists is the result of an initiative by the Friends and Supporters of the Castello, who, working in collaboration with the Museum, wish to actively support the dissemination of Italian art, awarding the work and commitment of an artist, chosen from a shortlist of candidates. The Fellowship is meant as a form of concrete support, which allows the artist to confront a new reality and have access to situations that encourage the development and promulgation of his or her work. In order to guarantee the greatest expressive freedom, the only requirement that must be fulfilled by candidates selected at the invitation of the Friends of the Museum is that they present a project that entails the need to spend some time in a foreign country. The period spent abroad, for research or access to institutions or production studios, culminates with the creation of new works. Earlier Fellowships have been awarded to Grazia Toderi (2001), Alessandra Tesi (2002), Margherita Manzelli (2003), and Lara Favaretto (2004).

Friends and Supporters of Castello di Rivoli

Carlo Boggio, Maria Gabriella Bonelli, Angelo Chianale, Francesca Cilluffo, Anna Rosa Cotroneo Bidolli, Paolo Dardanelli, Carla Ferraris, Marina Ferrero Ventimiglia, Nicoletta Fiorucci, Elena Geuna, Bruna Girodengo, Andrea Ruben Levi, Barbara Maccaferri, Warly Moreira Tomei, Renata Novarese, Alessandro Perrone di San Martino, Attilio Rappa, Giovanna Recchi, Alessandro Riscossa, Marco Rocca, Patrizia Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Tommaso Setari, Anna Giorgina Siviero, Gianluca Spinola, Carlo Traglio, Laura Antonietta Trincherio, Emanuela Vallarino Gancia, Matteo Viglietta, Andrea Zegna.

Gianni Caravaggio

Marcella Beccaria

Gianni Caravaggio (Rocca di San Giovanni, Chieti, 1968) defines sculpture as “a primary world,” a realm within which even the most abstract ideas are necessarily revealed in corporeal fashion. His works investigate reality, offering new perspectives for contemplating it and restoring the meaning of the concept of “experience.” The artist has thought of his project for the Fellowship from the Supporting Friends of the Castello di Rivoli as a “mental voyage toward the limits of the imagination, through necessary geographic displacements.” A scholar of philosophy and interested in themes addressed in contemporary physics, Caravaggio has spent time in scientific research institutes in Germany and France, making contacts with physicists who are delving into subjects tied to the origins and form of the universe. For the artist, this study has become a dialogue, over the course of which he has further defined the areas of his own research. This room contains some of the pieces he developed throughout this period.

The hypothesis of being able to observe the universe from an outside point is fundamental to *Cosmicomica* (*Cosmicomics*). A sculpture in marble, in stark black or white, the work is deliberately reduced in scale, evoking the idea of an object that can be handled. According to the artist, it alludes to the “fantasy of seeing the universe from the outside.” In contrast, the subject of *Attendere un mondo nuovo* (*Awaiting a New World*) is a reflection on the possible creation of an unexpected order, or disorder. The sculpture has an unstable form, and its every oscillation corresponds to a different dispersion in space of the substances with which it is covered.

Spreco di energia assoluta (*Waste of Absolute Energy*) is shaped like an irregular polyhedron, at the center of which is a white marble parallelepiped. The encounter between the two elements triggers a process that corresponds to the passage of matter from a solid to a liquid state. The principle of transformation contained in the work is subject to temporal laws and, conditioned by them, can be interpreted as “an act of existence.”

Gianni Caravaggio is the winner of the 2005 Fellowship for Young Italian Artists, offered by the Supporting Friends of the Castello di Rivoli. Previous winners include Grazia Toderi (2001), Alessandra Tesi (2002), Margherita Manzelli (2003), and Lara Favaretto (2004).

Biography

Gianni Caravaggio was born in Rocca San Giovanni (Chieti) in 1968.

Raised in Sindelfingen, Germany, the artist returned to Italy in 1989 to continue his studies in philosophy at the Universities of Siena and Milan. In Milan he also attended the Accademia di Brera, where he studied under Luciano Fabro, graduating in 1994. He returned to Germany from 1995 to 1996, where he studied philosophy at the University of Stuttgart and collaborated on the *Transimagine* project, connected to Joseph Beuys's theory of "social sculpture." He currently lives and works in Milan.

Gianni Caravaggio's exhibition activity began in 1993, with his participation in the group show *Caravaggio, Colombo, Morandini, Westphal*, curated by Luciano Fabro at the Casa degli Artisti in Milan. In 1995 he had his first solo exhibitions: *Arcoditempo*, at Project Room Il Corridoio, Milan, and *Zeitspanne*, in Maichingen, Germany. The following year he created the installation *Giocami e giocami di nuovo*, where his reading of Gilles Deleuze's writings on ideal play, published in *Logica del senso*, inspired a game of dice, where the elements are a layer of thick flannel, ovoid like the orbit of the Earth around the Sun, five bronze shapes, one for each continent, and a leather glass. The work was exhibited in 1997 at a solo show at the Casa degli Artisti in Milan; later that year he participated in the group show *Periscopio 1997*, at the Centro Civico di Noverasco, Milan.

In 1998 Caravaggio participated in the group show *Nuovo Spazio Italiano*, Spazio Consolo, Milan. Chosen by the Antonio Ratti Foundation in Como for an advanced course in visual arts, he attended a workshop given by Haim Steinbach in 1999. For the group show organized at the conclusion of the course, Caravaggio created *Naturalized Flag (Bandiera naturalizzata)*, an installation that brings together, in its materials and chromatic structure, elements and suggestions from the outdoor landscape.

In 2000 he had his first solo show at the Galleria Francesca Kaufmann in Milan, entitled *New View*, where he also exhibited *A New Perspective*, 2000. In this work, as in the monochrome installations *Moment(Attimo)*, 2000 and *Drops (Gocce)*, 2000, the artist worked with magazine columns and reams of paper, removing circular sections of material, which were then distributed over the gallery floor. He was also invited to participate in several group shows: *Più vasto del misurato*, 200, Link, Sassari; *Tracce di un seminario*, Viafarini, Milan; *Weihnachten*, Galerie der Stadt, Sindelfingen. In 2001 his work was exhibited in the solo show *What Does Your Soul Look Like*, at the Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, and in numerous group shows, such as *Trading Spirit*, TENT, Rotterdam; *Paper*, Galerie Borgmann/Nathusius, Cologne; *Play>*, Openspace, Milan; *Invasione Italiana*, Galleria Civica d'Arte Contemporanea, Siracusa; *Nuove Acquisizioni*, GAM – Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin; *Leggerezza – Aktuelle Positionen Italienischer Kunst*, Lebachhaus, Munich. In 2002 he was chosen for the P.S.1 Italian Studio Program at P.S.1, New York; he also exhibited in the group shows *Kiss Me I'm Italian*, Perimeter Edition Gallery, London; *Collezionismi*, Palazzo delle Papesse, Siena; *Nuovo Spazio Italiano*, Galleria Civica di Arte Contemporanea and MART – Palazzo delle Albere, Trento. In 2003 and 2004 the Galleria Francesca Kaufmann devoted two solo shows to his work. In 2004 he also had a solo show at Tucci Russo, Studio d'arte Contemporanea, Torre Pellice.

In 2005 Caravaggio received the Friends and Supporters of Castello di Rivoli's Fellowship for Young Italian Artists. He also participated in the first Moscow Biennial and in the group show *S.N.O.W.*, Tucci Russo, Studio d'arte Contemporanea, Torre Pellice. In 2006 he participated in the group show *Scirocco*, Künstlerhaus Palais Thurn und Taxis, Bregenz.

The **Fellowship for Young Italian Artists** is an initiative of the Supporting Friends of the Castello, who, in collaboration with the Museum, wish to actively support the diffusion of Italian contemporary art. The Fellowship recognizes the work of an artist selected among several candidates. The Fellowship is intended as an aid to facilitate the artist's interaction with new realities, while encouraging the development of his/her research. In order to ensure the greatest breadth of exploration, the only requirement made to the candidates is to submit a project whose development involves a temporary residence in a foreign country. The residency, whether motivated for research, accessing foreign institutions, or production studios, should be aimed at the creation of new works. Recipients to date include Grazia Toderi (2001), Alessandra Tesi (2002), Margherita Manzelli (2003), and Lara Favaretto (2004).

Supporting Friends of the Castello di Rivoli

Carlo Boggio
Maria Gabriella Bonelli
Angelo Chianale
Francesca Cilluffo
Anna Rosa Cotroneo Bidolli
Paolo Dardanelli
Carla Ferraris
Marina Ferrero Ventimiglia
Nicoletta Fiorucci
Elena Geuna
Bruna Girodengo
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Barbara Maccaferri
Warly Moreira Tomei
Renata Novarese
Alessandro Perrone di San Martino
Attilio Rappa
Giovanna Recchi
Alessandro Riscossa
Marco Rocca
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Tommaso Setari
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Gianluca Spinola
Carlo Traglio
Laura Antonietta Trincherro
Emanuela Vallarino Gancia
Matteo Viglietta
Andrea Zegna

Gianni Caravaggio

Opere in mostra / *Exhibited works*

Spreco di energia assoluta (Waste of Absolute Energy), 2005

marmo nero marquina, marmo statuario, crema per pelle, lenticchia nera / *black marquina marble, statuary marble, skin cream, black lentil*

50 x 70 x 60 cm

Courtesy Tucci Russo, Studio per l'arte contemporanea, Torre Pellice

Cosmicomica (Cosmicomics), 2006

marmo statuario, lenticchie rosse / *statuary marble, red lentils*

35 x 30 x 40 cm

Courtesy Francesca Kaufmann, Milano; Tucci Russo, Studio per l'arte contemporanea, Torre Pellice e / *and* Galerie Paul Andriessse, Amsterdam

Cosmicomica (Cosmicomics), 2006

marmo nero del Belgio, lenticchie rosse / *black Belgian marble, red lentils*

35 x 30 x 40 cm

Courtesy Francesca Kaufmann, Milano; Tucci Russo, Studio per l'arte contemporanea, Torre Pellice e / *and* Galerie Paul Andriessse, Amsterdam

Attendere un mondo nuovo (Awaiting a New World), 2006

alluminio, vernice, borotalco, farina, lenticchie / *aluminum, paint, talcum powder, flour, lentils*

30 x 27 x 60 cm

Courtesy Francesca Kaufmann, Milano; Tucci Russo, Studio per l'arte contemporanea, Torre Pellice e / *and* Galerie Paul Andriessse, Amsterdam