

Press Release: 24.01.05

lies

STEFANO CAGOL

Essay by Mami Kataoka

PRIVATE VIEW. Friday, February 04. 2005

6.00 – 9.00 pm

04.02.2005 > 12.03.2005

Platform - London

Platform is proud to present a solo exhibition by Italy based artist Stefano Cagol. LIES is a project about the difficult moment we are living, about the difficult international reality.

It's a large video installation, a wall-projection. There is only one element on the sky's background, but there are many different meanings, always changing. In his video Stefano Cagol elaborates the symbol of the American stars & stripes flag: he takes it out from the context and duplicate it, while time is slowed. In this way the flag stirred by the wind becomes something menacing or the exact opposite, takes on the aspect of a butterfly and of a heart, or instead of armorial bearings. So its message is continuously transformed. The extreme, continuous and complex mutability of the image symbolizes the unsafe situation we are living, puts into evidence the uncertain change of values in our difficult reality, contradictions underlined by the title LIES.

The video is 25 minutes long and looped. It's composed by fragments, that are of various length, between ten seconds and five minutes. There are five sec of black between a fragment and the other, but the sequence has not a narrative develop. Fragments are always different, the background of the sky, the distance of the flag, light, rhythm are different. Near the end of the video there are two fragments with the flag on a grey cloudy background. The end is sudden... in 30 sec it develops through a zoom on the flag and at the same time through a blurring, so the image invades all the screen. The sound is created by the original sound of the of New York roads, but it's slowed down and altered by an outer space reverb.

« The continuous aesthetic mutability of a flag - in this case the American one - moved by the wind make me think about the changeability, the insecurity of ideals, of promises, of truth that all seem wrong, that all seem LIES. It makes me think how harshly a man can fight and die for the simple name of one flag. At this moment, I think in particular about the States, they try by any means to convince the world that their projects of war are only for truth and for peace... » *Stefano Cagol*

This exhibition is the first step of a public art project about the symbol of the flag, which will run through other cities with the collaboration of international art spaces in Tokyo and New York, and of the Civic Gallery of Contemporary Art in Trento where the first version of the video was showed for the group show *New Italian Space*.

Mami Kataoka is currently senior curator at the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo, and from 1997-2002 she was chief curator at Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery.



FOR IMAGES / MATERIALS / QUESTIONS WRITE TO info@tokyospace.com

In 2001 she co-curated "My Home is Yours / Your Home is Mine" with Hou Hanru and Jerome Sans. In 2002 she worked with the Barbican Art Gallery in London to produce "JAM: Tokyo-London" which included the work of over forty artists, fashion and graphic designers, photographers, musicians, and performers. In the same year Ms. Kataoka was one of nine curators to develop the exhibition "Under Construction: New Dimensions of Asian Art". She was also the selector, with Hou Hanru, of the Asian galleries that participated in the 2004 ARCO held in Madrid. More recently she has worked on projects with artists: Rirkrit Tiravanija, Santiago Cucullu, Ozawa Tsuyoshi and Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba.

Stefano Cagol. SHORT BIOGRAPHY:

1969, Born in Trento, Italy. Lives in Italy, often works in New York.

EDUCATION: 1997-98, PHD, Government of Canada Grant Award Holder, Postdoctoral Fellowship, Ryerson University, Toronto; 1993, MFA, Academy of Fine Arts "Brera", Milan; 1989, BFA, Art Institute, Trento, Italy

RESIDENCIES AND AWARDS: 2003, Corbyn Street, London. 2002, Artist in Residence, Leube Group's Art Program, Salzburg, Austria; 2001, Fellowship, ICP - International Center of Photography, New York, USA; 1998, Grant Award, Internationale Sommerakademie für Bildende Kunst, Salzburg, Austria; 1995-96, Residency Award, Künstlerhaus, Salzburg, Austria

LECTURES: 2005: MART - Museum of Contemporary Art, Rovereto, Italy, TSM - Master in Art & Culture Management; 2004: MiArt - International Art Fair, Milan; MART - Museum of Contemporary Art, Rovereto, Italy, TSM - Master in Art & Culture Management; 1999: Academy of Fine Arts "Brera", Milan; 1998: University of Toronto, Canada, McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology; 1994: Civic Gallery of Contemporary Art, Trento, Italy

SOLO PROJECTS: 2004: *Tokyospace*, Superdeluxe, Tokyo; *The Wedding Project*, Civic Gallery of Contemporary Art, Trento, Italy; 2003: *Diary Project 03*, Miami; *Dress the Risk*, Miss Italy, S. Benedetto del Tronto, Italy; *The Silver Squadron*, Galerie im Traklhaus, Salzburg; 2002: *Diary project 02*, Miami and New York; 2001: *Diary Project 01*, New York

SELECTED SOLO SHOWS:

2005, Platform, London. 2004: Project Room: video windows, Stux Gallery, New York; 2003: Palazzo Frisacco, Tolmezzo, Udine; Antonioli, Milan; 2000: MART-Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Palazzo delle Albere, Trento, Italy; Galleria Estro, Padova, Italy; Fondazione Furlan, Pordenone, Italy; 1999: Studio d'Arte Raffaelli, Trento, Italy; 1998: Ryerson Gallery, Toronto; 1996: Galerie der Berchthold Villa, Salzburg; Arka Galerija, Vilnius

SELECTED GROUP SHOWS: 2004: *Costanti Diversità. Biennale Europea Arti Visive*, CAMEC - Centro Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, La Spezia, Italy. 2004: *Moving Pictures. A Video Installation Survey*, Artcore Gallery, Toronto, *Stop & Store*, Luxe Gallery, New York; *Quadriennale Antepima*, La Promotrice delle Belle Arti, Turin; *Enter. Casoli Art Prize*, Barbara Behan Gallery, London; 2003: *Places of Affection. Luoghi d'Affezione*, IKOB-Internationales Kunstzentrum Ostbelgien, Eupen, Belgium; *In Faccia al Mondo*, Villa Croce- Museum of Contemporary Art, Genoa; 2002: *New Italian Space - Nuovo Spazio Italiano*, MART-Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art & Civic Gallery of Contemporary Art, Trento, Italy; *First International Festival of Photography. Viasatellite*, Mercati Traianei, Rome; *First Detroit Video Festival*, Museum of New Art, Detroit; 2001: Public Art Project: *Künstler Brücken. Ponti d'artista. Artists Bridges*, Bolzano; *Panorama II*, Tiroler Kunstpavillion, Innsbruck, Austria; S.A.A. *Strategies Against Architecture*, Galleria Gian Carla Zanutti, Milan; 2000: *Dintorni/Umgebung*, Galerie Im Traklhaus, Salzburg; 1999: *Whichkraft?*, Trans Hudson Gallery, New York City; *Video.it*, GAM-Gallery of Modern Art, Turin; 1999, *Atlante. Geography of Young Art in Italy*, MACS-Museum of Contemporary Art, Masedu, Sassari; *Super Mega Drops*, Viafarini, Milan; 1998: *Laboratorio*, Galleria Civica di Arte Contemporanea, Trento; 1997, *Generazione Media*, Palazzo della Triennale, Milan; 1996, *Video Forum. 2nd edition*, Basel Art Fair, Basel

INCOMING SHOWS AND PROJECTS: 2005: *The Babylon Zoo*, solo show, Galleria Oredaria, Rome, *The Passion for Learning and Knowing. 6th International Conference*, solo project, Faculty of Sociology, University of Trento, Italy

ARTIST'S WEB SITE: <http://www.stefanocagol.com>

Platform

Director: Sheila Lawson

3 Wilkes Street , London E1 6QF

telephone/Fax: 44(0)20 7375 2973

email: slawson@platform.dircon.co.uk

Open Thursday to Sunday 12.00-6.00 pm

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Platform è lieta di presentare la personale dell'artista basato in Italia Stefano Cagol. LIES è un progetto sul difficile momento che stiamo vivendo, sulla difficile realtà internazionale.

E' una video proiezione di dimensioni elevate, una wall-projection dove un unico elemento è protagonista sullo sfondo del cielo, un unico elemento con molti significati diversi, in continua evoluzione. Nel suo video Stefano Cagol elabora il simbolo della bandiera a stelle e strisce Americana: la toglie dal contesto e la duplica. In questo modo la bandiera mossa dal vento diventa qualcosa di minaccioso o l'esatto opposto, prende la forma di una farfalla, poi di un cuore e subito dopo di uno stemma militare. Così il suo messaggio è continuamente alterato. L'estrema, continua e complessa mutevolezza dell'immagine simboleggia l'insicura situazione che stiamo vivendo, mette in evidenza l'incerto cambiamento dei valori nella nostra difficile realtà, contraddizioni sottolineate proprio dal titolo LIES.

Il video della durata di 25 minuti è presentato in un loop continuo. E' composto da una serie di frammenti, di varia lunghezza dai 10 secondi ai cinque minuti. Tra una parte e l'altra ci sono cinque secondi di nero, ma la sequenza non ha uno sviluppo narrativo. I frammenti infatti sono differenti, è differente lo sfondo del cielo, la distanza della bandiera, la luce, il ritmo. Vicino alla fine del video ci sono poi due frammenti con un cielo grigio come sfondo. La fine invece è subitanea...in trenta secondi evolve attraverso uno zoom sulla bandiera e allo stesso tempo sfocando l'immagine che invade l'intero schermo. Il suono è creato dal suono originale delle strade newyorchesi, ma `e rallentato e modificato da un outer space reverber.

« La continua mutabilità estetica della bandiera – in questo caso quella Americana – mossa dal vento mi fa pensare alla variabilità, all'insicurezza degli ideali, delle promesse, della verità che tutti sembrano errori, che tutti sembrano LIES, bugie. Mi fa pensare quanto duramente un uomo può combattere e morire nel semplice nome di una bandiera. In questo momento, penso in particolare agli States: loro provano in ogni modo a convincere il mondo che i loro progetti di guerra sono solo per la verità e la pace... » *Stefano Cagol*

Questa mostra è la prima tappa di un progetto d'arte pubblica riguardo al simbolo della bandiera che toccherà altre città con la collaborazione di spazi museali internazionali a Tokyo e New York, e presso la Galleria Civica di Arte Contemporanea di Trento dove la prima versione del video è stata mostrata per la mostra *Nuovo Spazio Italiano*.

Mami Kataoka è attualmente senior curator al Mori Art Museum di Tokyo, e dal 1997 al 2002 è stata chief curator alla Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery.

Nel 2001 ha co-curato "My Home is Yours / Your Home is Mine" con Hou Hanru e Jerome Sans. Nel 2002 ha lavorato alla Barbican Art Gallery di Londra London per realizzare "JAM: Tokyo-London" che include il lavoro di oltre cinquanta artisti, designers di moda, grafici, fotografi, musicisti e performer. Nello stesso anno è stata uno dei nove curatori che hanno sviluppato la mostra "Under Construction: New Dimensions of Asian Art". Ha inoltre selezionato, insieme ad Hou Hanru, le gallerie asiatiche partecipanti ad ARCO a Madrid nel 2004 e nel 2005.

Recentemente ha lavorato a progetti con artisti come Rirkrit Tiravanija, Santiago Cucullu, Ozawa Tsuyoshi e Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba.

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Platform

Director: Sheila Lawson

3 Wilkes Street , London E1 6QF

telephone/Fax: 44(0)20 7375 2973

email: slawson@platform.dircon.co.uk

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