

PRESS RELEASE

Jacob Kassay
Untitled

23 May – 3 October 2010



The project for Collezione Maramotti comprises ten new pieces, some of which are mounted on the wall, while others are lying on the floor.

The canvasses have the look of reflecting panels which convey the ghost-like presence of the underlying paint while absorbing and rendering the external surrounding space of the piece. The canvasses on the floor, as sculptural elements, are conceived as rejects, surging to the value of possibility/potential.

Kassay's work is based on a minimalist *praxis* where the industrial process for the production of the art-piece subtracts the quality value of the artefact to replace it with the value of objectuality, turning it into something of interchangeable quality.

The conceptual elements of monochrome, the objectification of paint pigments, the reflection of colour, movement and form, become central in the artist's research, and are codified and translated into a new metaphysics of the painted surface, in a new form of abstraction, strongly lyrical, where the reference to photography appears evident.

The pieces are conceived starting from the priming of the canvas with wide expanses of an acrylic base to make the surface water-proof, and the subsequent application of a silver finish coat which, through a chemical process similar to the industrial process of an electroplating bath, crystallises the accidental components of the painting on canvas, thus creating

irregularities on the mirror-like surface. The electroplating process also produces singeing and burning on the uncoated elements along the edges of the canvas, and the appearance of unevenly burnished and oxidized areas on the metal-like surface which are out Kassay's control.

Kassay, who has a photographic background, has transposed many of these techniques in his painting practice. The chemical process of mirror plating on the canvasses is comparable to the old photographic process using a suspension of silver salts in gelatin: both techniques produce a transmutation where the light becomes the central element for the sensitization of the base and for the perception of the work.

With this exhibition Collezione Maramotti continues its activity taking place in the space dedicated to specific projects, which houses art pieces made specifically by guest artists. The pieces become then part of the permanent Collection in order to merge together acquisition practices for the expansion of the collection with the practice of public viewing.

Pattern room, as this dedicated space is called, was at one time – when the building was a manufacturing plant - the place where models and prototypes were designed. Therefore the dimension of project designing and experimentation merge together as the true vocation of this space, in a continuum between past and present.

Private view: 22 May 2010 h 6.00 pm in the presence of the artist.

The exhibition, with free admittance, may be visited from 23 May to 3 October 2010 in the opening hours of the permanent collection.

Thursday and Friday 2.30 – 6.30 pm

Saturday and Sunday 9.30 am-12.30 and 3.00-6.00 pm

Closed: from 1 to 25 August

Info:

Collezione Maramotti

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Jacob Kassay

Biographical note

Jacob Kassay was born in Buffalo in 1984. Lives and works in New York.

This is his first exhibition in Italy.

Solo exhibitions

2010

Art Concept, Paris

Franklin Art Works, Minneapolis

2009

Eleven Rivington, New York

2005

No No, Kitchen Distribution, Buffalo

Group exhibitions

2010

Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels

And so on, and so on, and so on..., Harris Lieberman, New York

Meet Me Inside, Gagosian, Los Angeles

2009

Besides, With, Against and Yet: Abstraction and the Readymade Gesture, The Kitchen, New York

Cave Painting, Part II, Gresham's Ghost, New York

Jasmine, Front Desk Apparatus, New York

Brendan Fowler, James Hyde, Jacob Kassay, Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, New York

Chat for the Now, Marvelli, New York

Strip Stripe, Emily Harvey Foundation, New York

Our Mirage, art : concept, Paris

Cave Painting, PSM Gallery, Berlin; Gresham's Ghost, New York

One Loses One's Classics, White Flag Project, St. Louis

2008

Cinema Zero Presents, Bemis Center, Omaha (Nebraska, USA)

Emily Harvey Foundation, New York

Comfort, Burn, Art Space, Buffalo

Cinema Zero Presents Bend Over/Hangover, White Flag Project, St. Louis

2007

Neo Integrity, Derek Eller Gallery, New York

Deer and Beer, The Mandrake, Los Angeles

2006

Members Show, Hallwalls, Buffalo