

Gianni Caravaggio

Opening 19 September

For the occasion of START 2008, three days of contemporary art in Milan, francesca kaufmann is proud to announce Gianni Caravaggio's new solo show.

The presented works in the three spaces of the gallery are articulated in numeric crescendo and constructed along the concept of 'beginning', following research that assimilates the creative process to the demiurgic act. The envisaging of the 'beginning' signifies the investigation into the origin, the exploration of potential forms, each one loaded with infinite possibility. The exhibited works are constructed as agents in a process, illustrating a cosmogonic panorama: the traces left in the gallery's space testify to the formative mobility of each individual sculpture, but at the same time evoke the possibility of new activation, a possibility that is constructed as a mythological gesture, a cyclical gesture that opens another layer of memory.

The exhibited works distill this mythological gesture: *Principio(Beginning)* is formed by a heptagon slab, geometrically rendered by the artist. The surface of the slab is inscribed with a cast of the floor where Gianni took his first steps (at his grandmother's house in the Abruzzese countryside). The surface holds spheres of varying sizes and materials, creating a portion of a more mysterious landscape. This "origin-landscape" is the source from which the spheres are thrown, only to return to their original position and await their next expansion into space. The traces of their passing are registered on the surface of the walls and in the fiber of the sculpture itself. *Principio(Beginning)* exists as a drawing as well, utilizing the surrounding light and space to create a three-dimensional illusion.

Attendere un mondo nuovo II (Wait for a new world II) suggests a dynamic nature: a long aluminum staff, which projects from the gallery floor to the space outside a window, collects rain water that is deposited on a mound of plaster and flour on the gallery floor. The result is a solid form that generates a stable bond between organic and inorganic material. *L'Iniziatore (The Initiator)* is a Cartesian axis formed by three different types of marble that delineate the spatial planes of an ideal dimension. The marble determines the color of the seeds and materializes their projection into a rational space.

Three works coexist in the last space of the gallery: *Lo stupore è nuovo ogni girone (Astonishment is new everyday)* is a revelatory gesture that uncovers the space under a paper form covered in talcum powder. The paper is propped up by a pole, uncovering the formation of powder, which retraces the constellation at the moment of the artists' birth. The title of the work is inspired by a quote by the Presocratic philosopher, Heraclitus of Ephesos, "the sun is new everyday." With its simple but essential nature, this work acts as the exhibition's leitmotiv.

The mobility of *Rivelatore di coppie (Revealer of pairs)* creates unexpected relations between spherical bodies scattered on the floor. With strength similar to "Eros" operative mode, the work crosses the confines of individual will. *L'immagine di ogni notte possibile(The image of every night possible)* is formed by a dense arrangement of pre-stressed and inox steel wires, bent at acute angles. The nervous composition is held together by two polar extremities, dusk and dawn, represented respectively by two blocks of yellow and red blocks of Persian marble that appear to move in opposition from one another.

Caravaggio's works, like the seeds that often accompany them, hold the possibility to create new, reactivating horizons that eternally return to the origin and find the metaphysical union between action and potential.