

Press Release - 13 June 2012

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME
“BRIGHTLIGHT/DARKLIGHT”



Chiara Camoni, *L'esercito di terracotta*, 2011-2012
Terracotta/refractive white clay
Courtesy Galleria SpazioA, Pistoia

Exhibition Opening
Brightlight - Darklight

Tuesday, 19 June 2012, 6:00pm-9:00pm
American Academy in Rome, Gallery

Two paired solo shows feature four young Italian artists who reflect on the ambiguous nature of our perception of time by means of a metaphor of the two aspects of light: the dazzlement of a summer day and the darkness of night. The artists have been invited to transform the two rooms of the AAR Art Gallery into spaces that permit visitors to experience the show as a process of consciousness, engaging them in a reflection on the ability of art to provoke unexpected reactions and interpretations, thereby changing the banality of the everyday. By means of an exhibition sequence that unites works in different media, each artist creates a conceptual and emotional itinerary that is unique and memorable. The two shows will open on different schedules in order to allow the project and the works to take advantage of natural light. The exhibition is curated by Ludovico Pratesi and Valentina Ciarallo.

First show

Brightlight: Francesco Carone and Chiara Camoni

Opening reception: Tuesday 19 June 2012 from 6pm to 9pm
Gallery hours: June 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 from 4pm to 7pm

Second show

Darklight: Salvatore Arancio and Emanuele Becheri

Opening reception: Tuesday, 3 July 2012 from 10pm to midnight

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Guided tours (RSVP only): July 5, 9, 10 from 10 pm to midnight. Please rsvp to Lexi Eberspacher, leberspacher@aarome.org.

Brightlight

First room
Francesco Carone
Scultura, 2012
Clay, life drawings
Courtesy Galleria SpazioA, Pistoia

Francesco Carone has darkened the large gallery windows with a clay solution, a practice originating in the studios of classical sculptors in order to filter daylight and reveal three-dimensional volumes in higher relief, and invited members of the American Academy in Rome community to draw directly onto the walls portraits of a model posing in the center of the room. The resulting drawings represent the model from a variety of angles, animating a projection deprived of its three-dimensionality by means of a temporal and spatial scansion.

Second room
Chiara Camoni
Senza titolo, L'esercito di terracotta, 2011-2012
Terracotta/ refractive white clay
Courtesy Galleria SpazioA, Pistoia

Chiara Camoni's installation consists of a number of small sculptures in white terracotta, a sampler of different shapes caught in various states of completion, or of destruction, realized in the course of group sculpture sessions organized by the artist in which she invited children and people without specific training to create unexpected and original narrative artworks.

Darklight

First room
Salvatore Arancio
Loomer, 2010
Videoprojection
Courtesy Federica Schiavo Gallery, Roma

Salvatore Arancio's video installation, presented for the first time in Italy, has been created through the editorial manipulation of the first scene of the film *Doctor Strangelove*, shot in 1964 by Stanley Kubrick. The artist has transformed the image into a surreal landscape that suggests metaphysical and paradoxical visions.

Second room
Emanuele Becheri
Exercises with a puppet, 2012
Videoprojection
Courtesy of the artist

Emanuele Becheri's video, created for this show, presents an audiovisual performance in which the artist and a puppet share the same darkened space, which is traversed by a grazing light as in a type

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of darkroom. The puppet is animated by the voice of the artist commenting on its movement. Moving the puppet along the edge between light and shadow amplifies the darkroom space, altering perception of the depth of field.

We would like to thank: Federica Schiavo Gallery, Rome, SpazioA Gallery, Pistoia members of the AAR community who have participated in Francesco Carone's project

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The American Academy in Rome, a leading overseas center for independent study and advanced research in the arts and humanities, has for over 118 years offered support, time, and a collaborative environment to some of America's most gifted artists and scholars. Through a national juried competition, the Academy offers up to 30 Rome Prize fellowships in architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation, landscape architecture, literature, musical composition, and the visual arts; as well as in ancient studies, medieval studies, Renaissance and early-modern studies, and modern Italian studies. The Academy also appoints Italian Fellows in the arts and humanities. The Fellows, who live in a dynamic and interactive community set high up on the Janiculum, are joined by a select group of Residents, distinguished artists and scholars invited by the Director. Founded in 1894 and chartered as a private institution by an act of Congress in 1905, the Academy is supported by gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations, and competitive grants from the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities. Of the 30 foreign academies in Rome, only the American Academy relies on private rather than government support.

Artist Biographies:

Francesco Carone (born in Siena 1975)

Degree from the Academy of Fine Arts, Florence

Recent shows:

2009

Actuelle Positionen Italienischer Kunst, Stadtgalerie, Kiel, Germany

2008

Collezione Farnesina - Experimenta, Ministry of External Affairs, Rome

Talent Prize, Museo del Corso, Fondazione Roma

maelström, Gallery SpazioA, Pistoia

Mediterranean, The Road to Contemporary Art, Roma

2007

Storytellers, Parco dell'Acciaio, Scandicci, Florence

Arrivi e partenze. Italia, Mole Vanvitelliana, Ancona

Lives and works in Siena

Chiara Camoni (born in Piacenza 1974)

Degree from the Academy of Fine Arts Brera, Milan

Recent shows:

2011

Nell'ordine delle cose, Museum Marino Marini, Florence

Vedere un oggetto, Vedere la luce, Foundation Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Guarene D'Alba, Cuneo

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Biennale Giovani, Monza 2011, Villa Reale, Monza
2010

C.W Clockwise, Mars, Milan

Somiglianze non sensibili, Galleri Opdahl, Stravanger, Norway

Persona in meno, Foundation Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Palazzo Ducale, Genova
Design Triennial, Museum of Design, Milan

2009

Passare il tempo, Foundation Teseco, Pisa

Video.it 2009-Un ponte sul Mediterraneo, Foundation Merz, Torino

2007

La vita degli animali.Introduzione1, Assabone, Milan

Lives and works in Milan and Piacenza

Salvatore Arancio (born in Catania 1974)

Degree in Photography from the Royal College of Art, London.

Recent Shows:

2010

SI-Sindrome Italiana, Le Magasin-Centre National d'Art Contemporain de Grenoble

Catastrophe? Quelle Catastrophe!, Manif d'Art 5, The Quebec City Biennial, Engramme, Quebec City

An Account of the Composition of the Earth's Crust: Dirt Cones and Lava Bombs, Frame, Frieze Art Fair, London

Prague Biennale 4, Karlin Hall, Prague, Czech Republic

2009

I giovani che visitano le nostre rovine non vi vedono che uno stile, GAM-Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Turin.

Lives and works in London.

Emanuele Becheri (born in Prato 1973)

Degree from the Academy of Fine Arts, Florence

Recent Shows:

2011

Languages and Experimentations, giovani artisti in una collezione contemporanea, MART, Rovereto

2010

Impressioni, Galerija Gregor Podnar, Berlin

Hauntology, MAN_Museo d'Arte Provincia di Nuoro

2009

Après coup, Museo Marino Marini, Firenze

Nocturnes: Young Italian Artists on Museion Facade, Museion, Bolzano

2008

Time out of joint, PAC, Ferrara

Incantamenti, Museo d'Arte Provincia di Nuoro

Lives and works in Prato (Florence)