

SPACE WALK Pavel Mrkus

7 June – 20 July 2008

With the kind collaboration of
Büro für Kunst – Dresden

The work of **Pavel Mrkus** enters a metaphorical vision of existence that seeks in transcendence both philosophical and social meanings as new ways to comprehend the real. The juxtaposition between tradition and modernity, spirituality and technology goes through his whole production. His video installations disclose a multilayered perception and give back to the viewer a complex as well as strong and deep image of human condition.

SPACE WALK, his very first solo show in Italy, deals with such aspects, touching on both cosmic and existential topics which are central in the research of the Czech artist.

Galleria Contemporaneo, public centre for contemporary arts managed by the City of Venice, in this occasion presents, with the kind collaboration of Büro für Kunst (Dresden), a new installation specifically conceived and produced for the gallery's exhibition spaces. *Space Game* explores the idea of the overlapping of real and virtual space, of conscious and unconscious dimensions and suggests a vision that, referring to the four Empedoclean elements (water, air, earth, fire), involves the viewer in a micro-universe of floating images. Besides this new production the exhibition presents other recent multimedia works as *Iris* (2008), interactive data installation showed for the first time at Büro für Kunst and now displayed in a more extensive version. *Iris* is an allegory of the mechanisms of contemporary communication inspired by the Greek mythological character of the gods messenger and traditionally connected to both the image of the rainbow and to that of the human eye and of the complexity it discloses. *Space Walk* (2006) is instead a projection of a matrix of 18 videos simultaneously downloaded from the NASA server. The viewer can interact with the work and change the pattern selecting the video cell by a mouse click. Just one of them, displayed also on an lcd monitor, tells about a long walk of a boy on the desert, dry and rough surface of an unknown planet...

Pavel Mrkus (1970 Melnik – Czech Republic) lives and works in Prague and Valdek. His artistic research focuses on digital and video art and site specific installations. From 2003 he is represented by Büro für Kunst. He took part in solo exhibitions throughout Germany and Czech Republic and in several international group shows among which the 2003 Venice Biennial.

<http://mrkus.ixode.org>
<http://www.buero-fuer-kunst.de/>

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