

MARCELLA VANZO

Summertime

**Opening: Saturday 24 November 2007, Via Arco dei Becci 1, 6pm
Until 2 February 2008, Tuesday–Saturday, 2–7pm**

Galleria Continua is pleased to announce a solo exhibition by Marcella Vanzo in its exhibition space in Via Arco dei Becci. Regarded as one of the most promising young Italian video-makers, the Milanese artist has already exhibited in important solo and group shows in Italy and abroad.

Her new video work, which will be premiering at Galleria Continua, is entitled *Summertime*. Made in Lampedusa and Zákynthos, the project offers insight into the cultural, ethnic and social changes currently taking place in the Mediterranean area. From on board coastguard patrol boats operating from Lampedusa, the artist filmed the landing of illegal immigrants, the last dramatic phase of a long and desperate journey in search of an alternative way of surviving. In the bays and inlets of the Greek island of Zákynthos, on the other hand, she filmed the daily arrival of hundreds of tourists, a full-blown invasion of shapeless, colourful crowds flooding onto the beaches and covering them completely with a mass of bodies.

Besides the boats, fishing boats, pedalos and military vessels, the constantly moving protagonists of this video are details of bodies – white and black, fat and thin, clothed and unclothed – and all their irreducible dichotomies and glaring stereotypes.

Vanzo comments: *“a cross between cinema and MTV, glimpses of ships, sun, sea; rumbling engines and music accompany images of the protagonists of these parallel movements: colourful, bikini-clad masses in search of an exclusive holiday in the Mediterranean, and dark, composed, silent groups crossing the Mediterranean in order to survive. [...] The video opens and closes with shots of wrecked boats: elevated to the status of monuments in the most beautiful bay on Zákynthos, confiscated and heaped up on top of each other in a hidden corner of Lampedusa.*

Pressed by the music, eyes meet, the eyes of people who will never encounter each other. The summer runs wild and everyone, sooner or later, smiles. It remains to be established what dream each person originally thought they were dreaming...”

Marcella Vanzo was born in 1973 in Milan, where she lives and works.

Selected exhibitions: *Tina B*, Performance Festival, curated by M. Giovannotti, Prague (2007); *Evolution de l'art*, curated by C. Pietroiusti & Crazy Curators, SPACE, Bratislava (2007); *Limbo*, Studio Guenzani, Milan (2006); *videoREPORT Italia 2004_05*, curated by A. Bruciati, Galleria Comunale d'Arte Contemporanea, Monfalcone (2006); *Aperto per lavori in corso*, curated by L. Matino and F. Pasini, Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milan (2005); *Senza confine*, Galleria Continua, S. Gimignano (2005); *Italian videos*, curated by M. Farronato, Trafo, Budapest, Hungary (2005); *Ama*, site-specific installation, Castello di Ama per l'Arte Contemporanea (2005); *Assab One*, curated by R. Pinto, former GEA, Milan (2004); *The Squared Circle*, curated by O. Ilesanmi, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2003); *Exit*, curated by F. Bonami, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin (2002).

Marcella Vanzo has won a number of awards, including the New York Award, Art Residency at Columbia University, NYC (2005), and ACACIA – Emerging Artists Award, an acquisition for the future Museo di Arte Contemporanea di Milano (2004).

For further information about the exhibition and for photographic material:

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