

PRESS RELEASE

**VEDOVAMAZZEI**  
**11 Dicembre**

**Exhibition space:** Umberto Di Marino Contemporary Art Gallery  
Via Alabardieri 1, 80121, Naples Italy

**Opening:** Thursday 11 December 2008 – 7.30 pm – 10:00 pm

**Duration:** 11 December – 16 January 2008

**Opening times:** Monday 4.00 pm/8.00 pm, Tuesday – Saturday 10.30 am/1.30 pm and 4.00 pm/8.00 pm

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Press office in collaboration with 

The **Umberto di Marino Contemporary Art Gallery** is pleased to present a new exhibition on December 11 by **vedovamazzei** entitled **11 Dicembre**.

The depersonalisation of the author, the questioning of identity and continuous formal experimentation, which have always been distinguishing traits of **vedovamazzei's** work, achieve complete coherence in this project which has been specially designed for the gallery premises. The interplay of references to recent events, literary allusions and the evocative power of art over the centuries, constitutes the plot of a story told with brusque interruptions and unexpected connections.

While artists frequently declare the teleological death of an object or a concept as the ineluctable moment of the creative process, the **first room** welcomes the visitor, placing emphasis on the first glaringly obvious denial. A large neon in the form of an X invades the wall opposite the entrance, simultaneously negating the space and the entire exhibition, providing an ironic comment on the concept of authorship by means of an enormous signature like that of an illiterate. At the same time, however, accompanying the spectator in a leap of logic and perception, the work placed beside it is a precise reference to the basic essentiality of the great tradition of abstract painting from Mondrian to Richter.

By contrast, the **second room** contains a bust inspired by a work of Gian Lorenzo Bernini, depicting Costanza Bonarelli. It is a curious celebration of a woman from a low-born family who is made unrecognisable due to the deformation of the face caused by the swirling patterns of the marble. A marginal seventeenth century character can thus lose her identity and even recall Margaret Thatcher when she made her historic speech in which she denied political status to several members of the IRA. The famous phrase "**A crime is a crime is a crime is a crime...**" that was uttered on that occasion is, in its turn, a paraphrase of Gertrude Stein's poem "*A rose is a rose is a rose is a rose*", which generates further depersonalisation of the author.

Some of the transitions may seem rather odd, just as the idea of a neon doodle in a corner of the **third room** may seem mad or the comparison between the basic requests of a poor man from contemporary society and the social claims of the Black Panthers in Sixties America may appear unacceptable. Everything, however, can be traced back to an irrepressibly irreverent spirit which confronts life through art as a way of demolishing the creaky certainties of society, beginning with the first ostentatious act of deletion. This involves opening up reality to different interpretations where "*we control neither aesthetics nor values*" (VM), although the viewer's attribution of aesthetic, rather than moral, recognition is intended by the artists to be completely accidental.

**Simeone Crispino** (1962) and **Stella Scala** (1964) live and work in Milan.

**Selected personal and collective exhibitions:**

- 2008 *MY SPACE. Cosa vuol dire 'pubblico'?*, PAN Palazzo delle Arti, Naples, curated by L. Barreca and J. Draganovic
- 2007 *Raphael The Western*, Galleria Borghese, Rome, Italy, curated by C. Strinati, A. Coliva and M. Codognato
- Fit to print*, Gagosian Gallery, New York, USA
- 2006 *Greatest Hits*, MADRE, Naples, Italy, curated by M. Codognato and S. Chiodi
- 2005 Magazzino d'Arte Moderna, Rome, Italy
- Praz Dellavalade, Paris, France
- Umberto Di Marino Arte Contemporanea, Naples, Italy
- Pearcy Miller, London, UK
- 2004 Vedovamazzei, GAM, Turin, Italy
- 2002 Vedovamazzei, Palazzo delle Papesse, Siena, Italy
- Eldorado, GAMeC, Bergamo, Italy
- 1998 Studio Guenzani, Milan, Italy