

SANTIAGO CUCULLU

*The Chosen Few*

**Exhibition space:** Galleria Umberto Di Marino, Via Alabardieri 1, 80121, Naples, Italy

**Opening:** Thursday 19th May 2011 – 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

**Duration:** 19th May – 19th September 2011

**Orario:** Monday – Saturday 3:00 p.m. / 8:00 p.m. – by appointment in the morning

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The [Galleria Umberto Di Marino](#) is pleased to present the new solo show by [Santiago Cucullu](#) entitled *The Chosen Few* on Thursday 19th May 2011, a voyage through the artist's memory and life, manages to transform his travels and interests into an imaginary tale of investigation and discovery.

[Cucullu](#) arrives at some conclusions to the ideas that have interested him over the last few years, marking a turning point that shifts attention from the customary collection of heterogeneous cultural references to the more direct intrusion of details from his personal life. Here he examines the ways in which experiences can be conveyed to those who have not been a direct part of them, the connection between an aesthetic form and reality - which is always subjective - and the unpredictability of the end result for the observer.

Fascinated by underground cultures that reminded him of his youthful passion for punk rock, the artist used to attend an illegal punk club in Milwaukee and a similar club in Berlin, focusing on the dynamics of aggregation and communication in these places and on the people who attend them.

*The Chosen Few* is the name of a gang of motorcyclists as well as a religious musical band, but the title also refers to those who have a specific collective experience. Such as that of the visitors who come to the gallery.

The large watercolours *Punk Room*, *The Women in the Room* and *Two in a Room* are reminders of the punk atmospheres of underground clubs. However, they also revive all the impressions recorded by the artist during his travels and define his approach to artistic research whereby things that are considered dirty, bad and aggressive are transformed into a stylistic cannon, rising to take on an aesthetic significance. The pseudo-illegality tolerated by these places also offers a different and more profound interpretation: the cynical language used within these groups becomes the parable of narratives hidden behind what is increasingly becoming a form of mass communication.

Instead, the use of video leads to an intentionally very different aesthetic which nevertheless is still linked to the relationship between the perception of events and their sharing with the outside world, expanding the perspective of wall art works. Using an old screen, *Cumbia Moon* follows the movement of the moon to the rhythm of *cumbia* music broadcast from a radio, while *Labourar? Ni oi ni nunca* provides the rhythm for the alternation of graffiti, creating psychedelic effects. The exhibition ends with two wall drawings in which all the features and allusions in the previous works find their most complete synthesis.

[Santiago Cucullu](#) (Buenos Aires - Argentina, 1969) lives and works in Milwaukee (USA).

Selected solo and group shows:

- 2010 *7 Variations On You Can't Always Get What You Want or Rhymes With*, curated by Christopher Cook, Salina Art Center, Salina, KS USA
- 2008 *Black Car and Green Waters of Lethe*, Looock Galerie, Berlin, D  
*MF Ziggurat*, Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee, WI, USA  
*New Perspectives in Latin American Art, 1930–2006*: selections from a Decade of Acquisitions, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
- 2007 *The creaky shaft*, Galleria Umberto Di Marino, Napoli, I  
*An Atlas of Events*, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, P
- 2006 *Biennale di Singapore*, Singapore
- 2005 *Delectable Reason of Sleeps*, Perry Rubenstein Gallery, New York, USA  
*How Latitudes Become Forms: Art in Global Age*, Museo d'arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey, MEX
- 2004 *2004 Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA  
*Project 1*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo, J  
*Drunk vs. Stoned*, Gavin Brown's Enterprise at Passerby, New York, USA
- 2003 *How Latitudes Become Forms: Art in a Global Age*, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Turin, I  
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA  
*Work on Paper*, Blum and Poe Gallery, Los Angeles, USA