

# NORDINE SAJOT

## *vivono e lavorano a Roma*

curated by Elena Giulia Rossi

**Inauguration : tuesday 22 April 2008 6.30 pm**  
**opening hours : from tuesday to saturday 4.00 to 8.00 pm**  
**last day : saturday 10 May 2008**

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The Studio Stefania Miscetti presents *Vivono e lavorano a Roma*, Nordine Sajot's solo show curated by Elena Giulia Rossi. On the occasion of the exhibition, photographs from the recent cycle *Physical Culture White Spirit* will be accompanied by a new series of sculptures, *Ex-voto 2008*, as well as by the Italian preview of the video *Vive e lavora a Roma*.

The French artist, who moved to Rome in 2005, employs a variety of media in order to investigate the gestures associated with table manners as a distinguishing factor of social status to open up to the phenomenon of cultural assimilation the way it becomes visible from each different behavioural model. Food is devoured and digested in a gesture that becomes "ritual", in the same way information is assimilated, leading towards new social identities. The rituality of gestures that in the past cycle of *Physical Culture* was depicted in the daily food habits, in the works shown at Studio Stefania Miscetti goes a step further by making explicit the connection that exists between day-to-day rite and religious rite.

A lollypop depicting the Pope (currently on sale in *souvenir* shops around the Vatican) is consumed at the accelerated rhythm of the video *Vive e lavora a Roma* in an action which unfolds backwards. The couples of men and women in *Physical Culture White Spirit* are portrayed in actions recognizable as marriage ceremony rituals, such as the clinking of glasses and the cutting of the cake. The objects are removed from the image in order to isolate gestures that are recognizable by our collective memory. The white colour, which the title *White Spirit* alludes to, clothes all the characters in the photographs and goes beyond being a religious reference, to become unity and purity, reconnecting it to body language's universality which finds a medium of exchange at the dining table.

The upper limbs, focal points of the ritual gesture, are extrapolated from the image and they materialize into the "ex-voto" sculptures becoming pagan cult objects. The artist states that *'the shapes isolate and unify the body, the gesture, the object and the food, creating surfaces/sculptures that represent them*. The *Ex-voto's silhouettes* are isolated from the image in order to build a dialogue among them in the same way the different media with which Nordine Sajot produces her work do: videos, photographs, and sculptures created in different materials, such as felt, as the one employed for the *Ex-voto* on show at the Not Gallery in Naples until April the 30<sup>th</sup> 2008, and brass, such as the one used for the works depicted in this show, and for the ones acquired by the Unicredit's permanent collection.

**Nordine Sajot** was born in France in 1975. Lives and works in Rome. Graduated at Nantes Academy of Fine Art in 1999, M.A. in research of art and design at Saint-Etienne Academy in 2000. Her work has been presented in several galleries, Institutional spaces and festivals, including: Notgallery, Naples 2007; Galleria Metis, Amsterdam 2007; Galleria Container, Rome 2007; Studio Stefania Miscetti, Rome 2007; Galleria METIS\_NL, Amsterdam 2007 e 2004; MLAC- Museo Laboratorio di Arte Contemporanea University "La Sapienza", Rome 2006; Careof Fabbrica del Vapore, Milan 2005 e 2002; Galleria Kresija, Liubljana 2005; Luigi Pecci. Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea, Prato, Florence 2005; Istanbul Contemporary Art Museum, Istanbul 2005; Galleria One/Off - Cortile del Maglio, Turin 2004; Museo Laboratorio ex-Manifattura Tabacchi, Città Sant'Angelo 2004 e 2002; Festival del cinema di Locarno, Locarno, Svizzera 2003; Unimovie Moving Image, Container, Museo Laboratorio ex-Manifattura Tabacchi, Città Sant' Angelo 2002; Centro d'Arte Contemporanea, Bruxelles 2001; Galleria EOF, Paris 2000; Up and Coming Film Festival, Hannover, Germany 1999. GRANTS and AWARDS: 2006 Unicredit Group Prize for the work *Ex-Voto* Fondation Arnaldo Pomodoro young sculptor competition, Milan; 2005 1st Prize *Pagine bianche d'autore – Seat Pagine Gialle S.p.A* art contest; 2002 Audience Award for the video *Cantine & Co* at the *Zebra Poetry Film Festival*, Berlin; COLLECTIONS: UNICREDIT Group, Turin; Akso Nobel Art Foundation, Amsterdam; SEAT Pagine Bianche, Turin; Galleria METIS\_NL, Amsterdam; Notgallery, Naples. website: [www.nordinesajot.net](http://www.nordinesajot.net)

