

# PAOLO CANEVARI

## *continents*

**inauguration** : **Tuesday 29 May 2007 6.30 pm**

**last day** : **Saturday 27 October 2007**

**opening hours** : **from Monday to Friday 4.00 to 8.00 pm, Saturdays by appointment**

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Studio Stefania Miscetti is proud to announce a one-man show by Paolo Canevari (Rome, 1963). The artist lives and works in both New York and Rome and made his debut with his first show in this very gallery. Paolo Canevari presents a series of graphite drawings on large paper sheets specially for the **continents** exhibition as well as a video from 2005 which is being presented for the first time in Italy. The two works refer to the same subject: five animals, five continents.

Paolo Canevari's comment on **continents**:

*The modern democratic world is divided into five different continents: Australia, America, Africa, Europe and Asia. This "democratic" geographical approach did not take into account profound differences between cultures and ancient natural borders, but instead created an abstract and selfish pattern that we still utilize nowadays not just to describe a geographical contest but also to address or something in a racist or racial way (for example : 'Africans' or 'European'...).*

*My work describes the five continents as five animals: America/Dog, Australia/Rabbit, Asia/Mouse, Europe/Cat and Africa/Pig, the animals are all of a domestic kind and can be found all over the world. They appear in a tableau each of them leashed to a big tire on which it is written the name of the corresponding continent. The placement of the tires and animals evokes the five Olympic rings (the symbol of the five continents). Each animal has a different symbolism in different part of the world. My work is a reflection on the prejudice that each society adopts towards "Others" and how this underlines its own ignorance and fears.*

Since his first one-man show in 1991, Paolo Canevari's output has been characterized by the use of common images, basic materials and various techniques from animation and large scale drawings to videos and site-specific installations.

In recent years his research has concentrated on symbols, icons and elements of collective memory, translating them into a personal, contemporary version which tries to de-contextualize meaning and put it up for discussion. The artist therefore creates within the viewer a stimulus to think and to find an interpretation/response in the work.

Recent major exhibitions include: XIII Rome Quadriennale, Palazzo delle Esposizioni Rome, 1999; *Colosso*, Christian Stein Gallery, Milan 2002; The Liverpool Biennial, 2004; *Welcome to Oz*, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, 2004; *Paolo Canevari*, Johannesburg Art Gallery, Contemporary Art Museum, Johannesburg, 2005; *Black Stone*, Christian Stein Gallery, Milan, 2005; *Rubber Car*, MART, Museo di Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto, 2006; Whitney Biennial *Peace Tower Project*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, 2006; *A Couple of Things I Have to Tell You*, Sean Kelly Gallery, New York, 2006; *Into Me Out of Me*, Kunst Werke Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, 2006.

CHARTA Edizioni published a monograph on the artist's works in 2001.

Paolo Canevari has been invited to participate in the **52<sup>nd</sup> Venice Biennale** in June 2007, an invitation that was extended to only six Italian artists by the curator, Robert Storr. Currently running is his one-man show **Nothing from Nothing at MACRO, Museo d'Arte**

**Contemporanea di Roma**, curated by Danilo Eccher, which is accompanied by a catalogue-monograph published by Electa with writings by Klaus Biesenbach, Danilo Eccher, Alanna Heiss and Chrissie Iles.