

PRESS RELEASE

Anableps

curated by Mario de Candia

Opening: Thursday 9 March 2000 from 18:30

closes: Thursday 20 April 2000

opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 16:00-20:00

Catalog presentation: Monday 17 April 2000 at 19:30

ANABLEPS: viviparous fish found in tropical America that swims on the surface of the water; half of its eye has significantly better sight above water, in the open air, and weaker underwater.

ANABLEPS is a reflection on contemporary portraiture as a genre. Based on an idea by curator Mario de Candia, the exhibition considers the profound changes that the portrait form has undergone in the arts in recent times.

With this in mind, all the artists that have contributed to the life of the gallery over the decade of its existence were called upon to take part. Each was asked and invited to submit a portrait – but providing it had been filtered through the work of another artist, with whose oeuvre the submitting artist identified.

The artists were therefore asked to try out a new, distinct approach, one which might offer them indications or direct them towards another way of portraying others or themselves – not based on physical appearance or particular physiognomies but more deeply, through a recognition of a shared understanding.

The exhibition is therefore constructed as a framer's gallery of "double-portraits", with a continuous doubling up and counterpointing of the two subjects' identities: on one hand the identity of the artist that had to choose, and on the other that of the artist whose work they chose.