

PRESS RELEASE

**Manfred Erjautz  
Michael Kiener**

STUDIO STEFANIA MISCETTI  
Associazione Culturale Mantellate

**opening: 19 February 1998  
at 18.30**

**Paolo Canevari  
Adrian Tranquilli**

ISTITUTO AUSTRIACO  
DI CULTURA A ROMA

**opening: 19 March 1998  
at 18.00**

**The exhibition, organized in partnership with the Austrian Cultural Institute in Rome, will take place in two separate locations and on two different dates.**

This partnership between the Austrian Institute of Culture and the Studio Stefania Miscetti is borne out of a desire to promote the latest trends in Austrian and Italian art, and put together an exhibition that promotes exchange within a single city, but in two separate locations that are themselves connected to different networks.

The exhibition dedicated to the young Austrian artists **Manfred Erjautz** and **Michael Kiener** will be held at the Mantellate Cultural Association - **Studio Stefania Miscetti**, which has hosted international artists in the past and worked with the capital's foremost cultural institutes; as a location it also facilitates exchange between the artists and the city's cultural and artistic landscape.

**The opening will take place on Thursday 19 February 1998 from 18.30.**

**The exhibition will then remain open to the public every day from 16.00 to 20.00, Tuesday to Saturday, until 22 March 1998. Admission is free.**

The idea of planning an installation by Italian artists **Paolo Canevari** and **Adrian Tranquilli** in the garden of the newly renovated **Austrian Institute of Culture** comes from the desire to make use of the potential of the Institute's outdoor space and use contemporary art as an active tool to integrate that space into a much larger area which, according to the intentions of the Municipality and the Sovrintendeze (Cultural Heritage Board), will become the area of the "Parco dei Musei" (Museums Park).

The exhibition catalogue, with essays by Luca Beatrice, Laura Cherubini and Dobrila Denegri, will also be presented to mark the occasion.

**The opening will be held on Thursday 19 March 1998 from 18.00.**

While both **Manfred Erjautz** and **Michael Kiener** belong to a younger generation of artists, they have already had the chance to exhibit their work in important international and Austrian galleries and museums.

After creating the installation *Patchwork* together at the *Stiegenhaus Universitat* in Graz in 1994, the duo have again chosen to present a collaborative piece in Rome, at the Studio Stefania Miscetti, as well as their work as individuals.

**Manfred Erjautz** was born in Graz in 1966. He currently lives and works in Vienna. He started working in the early 1990s with the aim of incorporating a codified linguistic system (such as the barcode, for example) into three-dimensional sculptural structures. His more recent work makes use of commercial logos and stickers (or similar publicity materials), which are always very colourful, transforming these linguistic codes into surprising images which are then inserted into photographs of real environments. In some installations the artist deliberately removes the labels of the products used, thus creating uncertainty and doubt, forcing the viewer to interact with his work.

**Michael Kiener** was born in 1962 in Steyr. He lives and works in Vienna.

His art has a social focus: it continually prompts reflection and a questioning of the autonomy of art itself, as well as the importance of the bonds which the latter establishes with social, historical and economic context. Kiener's approach to sculpture involves the use of simple, unpretentious materials, enabling us to consider basic concepts such as inside and outside, front and back, the visible and invisible. Since 1992 he has created a series of pieces with shards of glass balanced and fixed onto one another, incorporating and overlaying text or letters in such a way as to render them illegible: the artist thus alludes to the complex mechanisms at work in our "reading" of meaning and the role of the work of art.

**Paolo Canevari** was born in 1963. He lives and works in Rome.

In his first solo exhibition at the Studio Stefania Miscetti in 1991 he began working with simple, humble materials such as inner tubes, which he used to formalize an idea of sculpture as the manipulation of material and the transformation of its characteristics. Canevari's work lives through an evocation, as well as a certain idea of *making* that does not rediscover noble materials; it accentuates their transience and decay by virtue of their ephemeral nature and the creation of installations that tend towards non-physical objectification. Subsequently he presented a series of pieces which, through their use of drawings and comic strips, recall a primitive and childish imaginary (notably at the Museo Barracco as part of the *Projected Artists* event in 1995, and more recently by way of projections of his work at *Capodanno 1998* [New Year's Eve 1998] in Piazza del Popolo). His work has been shown in various international and Italian galleries and museums (in the United States, France, Austria and Ireland).

**Adrian Tranquilli** was born in Melbourne in 1966. He lives and works in Rome.

In his solo exhibition *Sei Senza nome* ("You have no name") at the Oratorio dei Filippini's Sala Boromini and the Studio Stefania Miscetti in 1995, the artist sought to identify a language that took as its starting point a series of objects usually considered in our culture as belonging to the "female" universe. These objects, charged with symbolic value, are taken out of their context and reworked so as to reveal how they are used and abused by various forms of power. With his recent solo exhibition, *Transider* at the De Crescenzo & Viesti Gallery, he introduced new technical and formal approaches through the use of computer-generated images, wax and resin sculptures. The body is now the central element of Tranquilli's work: deformed figures become ambiguous presences that create a tension between the spectator and the space in which they move.