

Marco NERI

Press release HOMELIFE

In his new solo gallery exhibition Marco Neri presents his private life, a project devised for his latest stay in New York and executed in the U.S.

Working in an extempore *atelier*, having to deal with transport-related issues and short notice Neri had to adapt to his new working conditions. This is why he compressed his works to a “portable” size and decided to use the acrylic colors - more flexible and expedient - instead of tempera.

The project had a twofold aim. On the one hand, the artist meant to produce a sort of site specific *Boîte-en-valise*: instead of providing the usual presentation album, Neri wished the visitors to his studio to find him at work on new works. On the other hand, and more subtly, he also wanted to test his own artistic intent and his imaginative power when faced with new stimuli and suggestions, with unknown horizons and relations.

The results are in many ways remarkable and reaffirm the flexibility of an artistic intervention which, while certainly universal in scope, is however strictly linked to the artists' identifying features.

Thus Marco Neri's New York becomes familiar, its skyline recalling that of Pianura Padana, its geometries and modules those typical of Alto Adriatico, where late rationalist architecture meets rural tradition. Neri's imaginative world unravels thanks to a sort of unending *déjà vu*: his visions are at the same time familiar and alien, as if they had been generated by watchfulness and elevated to a higher conscience

that makes them look rarefied. They no longer lie in the deep caves of memory but, light and transparent, float at gaze level reverberating in reality.

The *Windows* series is an unending geometrical abstraction exercise which seems to inflect a Rothko turned anaemic; *Mirabilandia's* roller coasters inevitably echo their antecedent in Coney Island – the celebrated wooden *Cyclone*; *Pluriball* is almost a detached, negative analysis of trite everyday scenes, mysteriously hidden inside a thickly dotted grid which suggests the cold mathematics at the core of digital images.

In the past three years Marco Neri held solo exhibitions in Köln (*Galerie Binz & Kraemer*, 2008), in Karlsruhe (*Galerie Haus Schneider Uschi Kolb*, 2007), in Milan (*Corsoveneziaotto*, 2007), at the *Centro per l'arte contemporanea Luigi Pecci* in Prato (2006) and at the *Lucas Schoormans Gallery* in New York (2006).