

**Eléna Nemkova**  
***Tenaciousness, impatience and exchanges of impotence***

curated by Davide Ferri

Opening Saturday 6 December, 6 pm  
6 December – 15 January 2009

Fabio Tiboni Arte Contemporanea  
via Del Porto 50d, 40122 Bologna, Italy  
ph/fax +39 051 6494586  
info@fabiotiboni.it  
www.fabiotiboni.it  
Tuesday - Saturday 2 - 8 pm

Entitled *Tenaciousness, impatience and exchanges of impotence* Eléna Nemkova's first solo show at the Fabio Tiboni gallery includes a series of works created especially for the occasion.

The fulcrum of the exhibition is a new sculpture, a large block of marble with a pretty rough appearance (perhaps a primitive utensil) which has Karl Marx's face in negative on one side, an imprint which synthesizes the idea of a fall, of a passage from the monumental to the primordial, and dramatically human.

Around the object, positioned at floor level and ideally abandoned at the margins of a park, of a sidewalk or some other urban interstitiality, one might even find stray dogs, as a series of small black and white photographic images shows, an ambiguous reference to the periferies of large metropolises.

For some years Eléna Nemkova has undertaken research which has taken her to illustrate the relationships between the evolution of science (sometimes slippery and ambiguously visionary) and daily reality reconsidered in its relationships between past, present and future.

Two other works in the exhibition should be read in this way, *Sublime*, a video animation in which a bizarre and complex mechanism controls the changing seasons and climates in a kind of idealised micro-territory, and *Unbelievable efforts against the Catastrophe theory*, a sculpture the artist presented at the last Moscow Biennale, which is a fragile hypothesis of the reconstruction (in both physical and ideal senses) of a mammoth, one of the most important symbols of Russian culture and history.

Also on show are some works on paper, simple illustrations from news-stories that the artist has selected daily from scientific websites, translating the incongruity and complexity of the real which become designs of a controlled visionariness, images in which the possible ends up confusing itself with the improbable.

(We would like to offer a special thank to the department for animal protection and rights of Bologna and the dog pound of Bologna.