

Michelangelo Consani
La festa è finita / The Party's over
Preview Saturday 29 January 2011 at 6 pm
30 January – 31 March 2011

Fabio Tiboni - Sponda
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With The party's over The Fabio Tiboni "Sponda" gallery presents a project by Michelangelo Consani conceived specifically for this space.

Located along the banks of the old canal of Bologna's port, "Sponda" metaphorically presents itself as a "mooring place". And so Tiboni undertakes a new path, also announcing the beginning, this spring, of a series of exhibitions and activities in Rimini.

Sponda and the Rimini project reactivate the memory of the canal which, from the beginning of the last century, linked Bologna's riverside port with the sea.

The party's over follows the artistic investigations of Michelangelo Consani, directed at investigating and reappropriating every form of marginality – historical, ideological, political and social – and bringing into play a series of new reflections.

The project's incipit is a text by the philosopher-economist Serge Latouche, titled "The party's over" which analyses the global capitalist system based on the use of petroleum. Inside the gallery space the artist organises his *dies festus*. The invited: John Herbert Dillinger, Henry Ford, Allis Chalmers, Marco Ferreri, Michel Piccoli, Mario Schifano, Marion King Hubbert, Colin Campbell, Achille Castiglioni, Arthur Hollins, Masanobu Fukuoka. A series of people linked one to the other by antimony or affinity. All of them, in one way or another, connected by the terms of reference of the project: technology, the car, petrol, consumption, production and the earth; all of them, furthermore, witnesses to periods of great economic depression (America's '29, the first half of the 70s, the present crisis). The group of guests is a successful mix. From John Herbert Dillinger gangster and gentleman, a modern Robin Hood of crime (during his heists he would burn the account books thus cancelling the debts and loans of the have-nots before escaping in his uncatchable Ford V8), to Henry Ford, not by coincidence founder of the Ford Motor Company but also promoter of the project *Hemp Body Car*, a car which literally "grew from the earth", fuelled by a combustible obtained from distilled hemp with zero pollution. And also from Allis Chalmers, King of the tractors, similarly engaged in experiments with a hydrogen motor and dynamo from '54 to '58, to Marco Ferreri as director of the 1969 film "Dillinger is Dead", a tough film which is a strong critique of the dominant capitalist model. Ferreri is accompanied by the main actors from his film, Michel Piccoli and Mario Schifano (much of the film was shot inside his house in Rome), and one of the major exponents of Italian design, Achille Castiglioni. Furthermore, Consani has invited some inseparable couples to the party, the Berlin-based geologist Marion King Hubbert and his disciple Colin Campbell (their studies of the world's oil resources are among the more well respected), and two marginal characters, Arthur Hollins and Masanobu Fukuoka. Hollins was one of the pioneers of conservation of farmland and pastures, an advocate of not ploughing fields. Considered a visionary throughout the last century, today his blooming farm serves as both a model and the object of numerous studies. Fukuoka, father of Nature Farming, or Do-Nothing Farming, has his philosophy encapsulated in his name, as he would say: "*Masa = law; Nobu = faith; Fuku = happy; Oka = mountain*".

Michelangelo Consani's project will be a genuine *happening* which will repeat itself weekly for the duration of the exhibition.

The party's over will be accompanied by a folding poster with critical text by Pier Luigi Tazzi.

Michelangelo Consani, Livorno 1971. After a series of important collective shows (SCHUNCK-Glaspaletis, Holland; Musee d'Art Contemporain du Val de Marne, France; Center for Contemporary Art Celje, Slovenia; Fondazione Michelangelo Pistoletto, Biella, Italy) in 2010 Consani received the prize of best artist under 40 from Florence's EX3 Centro per l'Arte Contemporanea. The work subsequently entered the permanent collection of Prato's Museo Pecci. In the same year he participated in the inaugural Aichi Triennale which was curated by Akira Tatehata, Masahiko Haito, Hinako Kasagi, Pier Luigi Tazzi and Jochen Volz in the city of Nagoya. The artist is also working on a new project which he will present in April on the occasion of a solo show at the Kunstraum in München.