



Complesso Monumentale Santo Spirito in Sassia

# S P I R I T O D U E

in collaboration with



presents



## Christian Jankowski

*Casting Jesus*

performance

curated by Valentina Ciarallo and Giacinto Di Pietrantonio

**Friday 25 February 2011, 6.00 - 9.00 pm**

**S P I R I T O D U E** is a new contemporary art project curated by Valentina Ciarallo and hosted by Complesso Santo Spirito in Sassia in Roma. This project, promoted by Giubilate Eventi, will be realized in collaboration with Enel, a worldwide Energy corporation involved for many years in the promotion of contemporary art. The new feature of **S P I R I T O D U E** is that every artistic event will be curated and realized also a director of a National museum of contemporary art. Many renowned directors have already committed to collaborating in future events. The project includes works and performances of important national and international artists to consider a unique and exceptional exhibition space. The Complesso Santo Spirito was originally constructed during the 8th century and was subsequently rebuilt under the pontificate of Pope Sisto IV with the actual structure dating back to the second half of the 15th century. Every artist has been asked to realize a site specific project connected to the environment and its history utilizing the various contemporary artistic vocabularies. What makes **S P I R I T O D U E** a unique project is that the shows will last only for a few hours.

The first project of 2011 features Christian Jankowski, a multimedia artist and major figure of the international art world. This project is divided in two parts (*Casting Jesus* and *Jesus appears in Santo Spirito hospital*) where daily life, art, reality and fiction are interwoven blurring their distinctions. The central theme is a real "casting" to select an actor that will have to interpret the role of Jesus: "The inspiration to this project came to me when I remembered a moment I witnessed while I was shooting a movie in Cine Citta in 2003. Next to our set Mel Gibson was shooting scenes for his film *The Passion of Christ* starring James Caviezel in the role of Jesus. In the lunch break I saw Caviezel dressed like Jesus covered in artificial blood walking to the actors caravan, left and right from him walked 2 priests (these were no actors!). They were talking and I had the impression that they coached him to find the right spiritual, artistic expression for his impersonation of Jesus. I was very moved by this image and later when I watched Mel Gibson's movie in a cinema I was impressed by the high acting skills of Caviezel, which were - as I know - also informed by experts from the church, maybe men from the Vatican. For my project in Santo Spirito I am also looking for a spiritual and artistic collaboration".

The work of the German artist, is often based on investigating the status of the particular format of film and television, proposing questions about the levels of reality produced by them. Some of his projects survey the media and entertainment production companies that pervade our daily lives and become a constitutive element. The artist leads to a critique of the image based, consumer society with his videos, films and performances that are often humorous and ironic. Jankowski's art subverts and reveals simultaneously, leaving the space for interpretation open to the audience. In particular, he refers not only to a consumption of goods, but also a consumption of media targeting contemporary collective spaces. In fact, whether it's a commercial production in the stereotype of the Tuscan landscape (Commercial Landscape, 2001), or the card reading by a tv-magician (Telemistica, 1999), or food shopping with bow and arrow in a mall (The Hunt, 1992), his eye is always behind and in front of the camera in order to show the mechanisms of the mass communications, that in *Casting Jesus* and *Jesus Appears in Santo Spirito hospital* he tries to redeem.

Christian Jankowski (Göttingen, 1968 lives and works in Berlin). His principal exhibitions include: Klosterfelde, Berlin (1996, 2002, 2004, 2008), Galleria Giò Marconi, Milan (2001 and 2005), Swiss Institute of Contemporary Art, New York (2001), Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Basilea (2003), Macro, Rome (2003), Art Sonje Center, Seoul (2003), Lisson Gallery, London (2003 and 2006), Centre d'Art Santa Monica, Barcelona (2003 and 2007), Public Art Found, New York (2009), Regen Projects, Los Angeles (2005 and 2009), Miami Art Museum, Miami (2007), Regents Park, Frieze Art fair, London (2007), Kunstmuseum Stuttgart, Stuttgart (2008), Bawag Foundation, Wien (2009). Moreover he has participated in: 48a Biennial of Venice (1999), Whitney Biennial, New York (2002), Serpentine Gallery, London (2004), Triennial of Turin, Castello di Rivoli, Rivoli (2005), PS1 Contemporary Arts Center, New York (2005), Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin (2007), 17th Biennial of Sydney, Sydney (2010), Taipei Biennial, Taipei (2010).

**Location:** Complesso Monumentale Santo Spirito in Sassia, Borgo S. Spirito, 1 – 00193 Rome

**Date:** friday 25 february 2011, 6.00 - 9.00 pm (one night show)

**Curated by:** Valentina Ciarallo and Giacinto Di Pietrantonio

**Information:** Giubilarte Eventi tel: +39 06 68210854; [www.giubilarte.it](http://www.giubilarte.it) - [info@giubilarte.it](mailto:info@giubilarte.it)