

Press release

FRANCO SCOGNAMIGLIO

Life of Galileo

Opening December 14, 7.00 pm

Galleria Lia Rumma Naples, Via Vannella Gaetani, 12 – 80121 Napoli

Tel. +39 081 7643619 – Fax +39 081 7644213 [HYPERLINK](mailto:info@galleriarumma.it)

"mailto:info@galleriarumma.it" info@galleriarumma.it - www.galleriarumma.it

Gallery opening time: from Tuesday to Friday 4.30 pm – 7.30 pm. Other days by appointment

The Lia Rumma Gallery in Naples is pleased to announce the new personal exhibition by Franco Scognamiglio entitled Vita di Galileo (Life of Galileo). Franco Scognamiglio's new project focuses on the figure of Galileo Galilei, the most important events of his life and, in particular, the trial organised by the Church against his new heliocentric theory of the universe. The artist has modified the gallery space by creating a polygonal room near to the entrance. The room is painted dark grey and is intended to reconstruct the claustrophobic space of a cell, a reference to Galileo's imprisonment. Inside the space a video is projected showing an imaginary cosmic space, inspired by the theories of the great scientist. On another wall, a sculpture creates a negative image of a profile of a human figure by means of protruding pointed needles that allude to torture. After passing through the small dark room, the rest of the gallery is characterised by white walls occupied by five light boxes devoted to the life of Galileo. Using three-dimensional animation, the images reproduce virtual spaces with a strong symbolic value. Bookshops, concentric circles, planets, telescopes and ladders allude not just to the study and empirical observation of reality but to the store of man's knowledge and represent a sort of "theatre of memory". With this definition, Scognamiglio is referring to the words of the American anthropologist Derrick de Kerckhove who considers the structure of the theatre as a possible physical simulation of mental space. The theatre of Galileo thus becomes a visionary space which subverts all proportional logic and all theories of the gravity of bodies. This contrasts with the vision of the Church, formalised by architectural elements of Gothic style which refer to a medieval conception of the world. In this way, a striking contrast is created between Galileo's modern vision of the world and the Church's attachment to tradition. The passages placed next to the images of the light boxes have been taken from two works by Galileo, the Sidereus Nuncius (The Starry Messenger) and the Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems, and by the indictments formulated by the Church.

Scognamiglio's work on Galileo continues his research which began with the video Degli Infiniti Mondi (About Infinite Worlds) made in 2001 and which was devoted to the trial of Giordano Bruno and his subsequent sentencing to be burnt at the stake.

Franco Scognamiglio was born in Naples in 1966. He exhibited his work for the first time at the Lia Rumma Gallery in Naples in 1995, with a project entitled L'Architetto del Male (The Architect of Evil); an exhibition of his work was subsequently held in the Lia Rumma Gallery in Milan in 2000. In 2001 he won the first prize of the competition for three artworks for the new Courthouse of Salerno, young artists section. In 2006 exhibited in Metropolitanscape group show at Palazzo Cavour, Turin, has been invited to X Biennial of Architecture in Venice and to upcoming European Biennial of Visual Arts in La Spezia. In 2006 Metropolitana di Napoli committed to him a project for Viale Augusto station.