

Press Release

**Andrea Mastrovito**

*The Modern Prometheus*

Exhibition from Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of May to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2012

Opening Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of May in the company of the artist

The Guy Bärtschi Gallery takes great pleasure in hosting the new exhibition of **Andrea Mastrovito**, born in 1978 in Bergamo, Italy.

His High School Diploma in Sciences freshly obtained, Andrea Mastrovito began an artistic training, which stems from a strange pact with his best friend. The two boys decided to challenge each other in doing the Fine Arts and a Cinema School. The idea was to create one day together a new cinematographic wave.

Fifteen years later, Andrea Mastrovito has clearly found his way, and is still waiting for his friend to finish his training.

In 2001, the artist received his MA in Fine Arts from the Accademia Carrara di Belle Arti of Bergamo. In 2007, he received the "New York Prize" awarded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Actually, he lives and works between New York and Bergamo.

Through this exhibition, Andrea Mastrovito talks about the man and his desire to find life through death: he revisits the famous novel by Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, and originally subtitled *The Modern Prometheus*.

Prometheus, the Titan of Greek mythology, is known to have formed from clay and water the Human being and giving him the divine fire stolen from the Gods, for that he was condemned to be tortured and chained on Mount Caucasus, an eagle devouring his liver for eternity. In his drawings, the artist appropriates the myth representing the modern Man, the Modern Prometheus, executed by the fire given once by the Creator.

To create his work, the artist incorporates the principles applied by Dr. Frankenstein and transposes them. Although the tracking is a kind of aberration and the result a strange monster, life resumes after death. Andrea Mastrovito gives life to a new edition of the novel linking end to end a page of each of seventy old editions of the novel he has collected, keeping the order of numbering.

The page order is respected. Nevertheless, the connection between the pages does not match with the narrative; the book is no more like the original. In fact, a "novel-monster" was born.

From construction in destruction were born *The Six Sleepers*, made of shots cutter, these young people seem to rest before perhaps going back to life. Repeating the actions which were those of Dr. Frankenstein in the cemetery, the artist has collected on each of them a piece of "flesh-paper".

Two video projections depict the "fire" that kills "Modern prometheus", figure of the drawings, and which here becomes a promising of a new life; a life done by the gestures of everyday life, those that we tirelessly repeat and that all look like.