

PRESS RELEASE

Michael Clegg and Martin Guttman (born in 1957) have been working together on the production of photographic images since 1980. In recent years they are part of a widespread group of artists and writers in New York, already featured in Italy in the exhibition "Rooted Thetic" curated by Gabriele Guercio in Castel dell'Ovo, Naples. Among the common interests there is a strong sense of deeply (and historically) coded information that could be present in simple, sometimes deceptively mute, empty or easily readable images. Hence a common desire to express the rhetorical excess of much of what happened in art after Minimalism, in favour of "understatement" and a kind of "low seriousness" or post conceptual refinement.

Former students of Joseph Kosuth, Clegg & Guttman work with three types of historically constant images: portrait, still life, and landscape. The portraits are divided into three groups: the fictitious ones where they use actors and artists present themselves as simulators of the power relationship between artists and patrons; the commissioned ones where they undergo a real confrontation with the powerful; the collaborative ones where every decision is made in collaboration with the people being photographed.

Their interest in still life implies a discourse on the relationships within our perception of objects. If portraits talk about power, still lifes talk about consumption.

In the exhibition at Lia Rumma's gallery, Clegg&Guttman presents a series of portraits of important people from Campania. The exhibition will open on Sunday, February 8, 1987 at 11 am.