

## PRESS RELEASE

### CLEGG & GUTTMANN *False Perspective*

21 February 2001, ore 19.30 Galleria Lia Rumma Milano, Via Solferino, 44  
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The gallery is open to the public from Tuesday to Saturday, from 11.30 to 13.30 and from 15.30 to 19.30

On Wednesday February 21 at 7.30 p.m., the Galleria Lia Rumma in Milan will inaugurate the exhibition of Clegg & Guttmann's work commissioned especially for the gallery.

Michael Clegg and Martin Guttmann, Israelis by birth but Americans by adoption, have concentrated on making photographic images together since 1980. They were both born in 1957 and are students of Joseph Kosuth; their work includes individual and group portraits, landscapes and still lifes. As heirs and torchbearers of the sixteenth and seventeenth century tradition of portrait painting, Clegg & Guttmann have extended the concept of the portrait to the extent that they treat each of their photographs as a social portrait, a piece of evidence from which a segment of reality can be grasped. By applying such a broad definition to the notion of the portrait, they have focused their attention in recent years upon the theme of the library, considered as a place that represents memory as well as individual and collective knowledge.

Their installation "False Perspective" will transform the gallery, creating a radical change in the perception of space by means of a series of devices inspired by the principles of illusion through perspective.

Clegg and Guttmann will separate the space into two parts. The first will contain a series of three-dimensional *trompe l'œil* "bookshelves" which portray sections of shelving from libraries in Milan, New York and Berlin; the shelves contain books on subjects related to different disciplines (geometry, architecture, psychology, linguistics, political theory and religion), although all are concerned with the theme of illusionism.

In the second part, which is constructed according to the principles of theatre set design, the same features create the optical effect of expanding the space in the gallery. "Knowledge sculpture" – the term given to the "bookshelves" by the two artists – refers to the range of possible meanings connected to the theme of false perspective, and alludes to the difference between the visible and underlying reality.

Clegg and Guttmann have worked with the Galleria Lia Rumma since 1984. In September 1999, the Museum of Trento devoted a retrospective to their work entitled "Portraits, Still Lives and Landscapes, 1985 – 1999".

The artists will be present at the gallery for the inauguration.

