

PRESS RELEASE

VANESSA BEECROFT

Thursday 11 April 2002, 7.00 p.m. Galleria Lia Rumma Milan, Via Solferino, 44
Tel.+39.02.29000101, Fax +39.02.29003805 e-mail liarumma@tin.it web: www.gallerialiarumma.it
The gallery is open from Tuesday to Saturday from 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 3.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

The Lia Rumma Gallery in Milan will present large format photographs and a video taken from Vanessa Beecroft's spectacular performance at Genoa, the city where the artist was born, which took place a few days before the G8 meetings were held.

For the performance, which took place in the *Sala del Maggior Consiglio* in the Ducal Palace, thirty coloured models gave a carefully choreographed performance which lasted for three hours. The girls moved slowly within the large room of the palace. Their detached and imperturbable expressions, the layer of dark make-up applied all over their bodies and the large curly wigs that they wore gave them a uniform and extraordinarily osmotic appearance with respect to the impressive architecture of the room. The effect produced was that of a monochrome composition, altered only by a few details that provided touches of contrasting colours. The theatrical lighting contributed to the enigmatic suspense-filled atmosphere, highlighting the expressive charge.

Beecroft has already made several previous declarations about her profound relationship with the history of art and the importance, in this respect, that chromatic and formal features play in her works. Her intention is to transform the performance into a kind of icon of the present.

Vanessa Beecroft, born in Italy in 1969 and resident in New York, can be considered the most renowned representative of the new generation of young Italian artists. Her performances consist of *tableaux vivants* that comprise young women who are silent, indifferent, and scantily dressed and either stroll about or sit down slowly, following a choreography painstakingly prepared by the artist down to the very last detail. With their pale and bored-looking expressions, these female beauties who lack passion or aims seem to have lost all pleasure and fecundity, and represent a model of beauty capable of re-appropriating the body and sucking out the vitality.

The internationally acclaimed artist Vanessa Beecroft has exhibited her works and given performances at venues such as the Venice Guggenheim (2001), the Kunsthalle in Vienna, the Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2000), the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (1999), the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, the Spiral Wacoal Art Center, Tokyo (1999), the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (1998), the Moderna Museet, Stockholm (1998), the Venice Biennial (1997 and 2001) and the Institute of Contemporary Art, London (1997).

