

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 19 April 2001, 7.30 p.m. Galleria Lia Rumma Milano, Via Solferino, 44
Tel. 02-29000101, fax 02-29003805, e-mail liarumma@tin.it website: gallerialiarumma.it The gallery is open to the public from Tuesdays to Saturdays, from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. and from 3.30p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Gursky was born in Leipzig, East Germany in 1955. Moving in due course to Dusseldorf, where he still lives and works, he studied under Bernd and Hilla Becher, who made such a significant contribution to the creation of a new type of objectivity in photography. However, he soon distanced himself from their approach, using not only colour photography but also a large format. From 1992, he began to make use of digital technology for the production of his photographs.

The compositional aspect always receives careful consideration in his pictures.

Gursky depicts, in their absolute obviousness, urban and human landscapes, group scenes where the tiniest and most enormous object are visible with identical clarity. His perspective varies enormously; he alternates between dizzying overhead views (Cairo I, 1992) with those taken from head height. Gursky appears to adopt an emotional disengagement from the subject of the photograph, despite always managing to avoid depicting a "mass", thereby emphasising the wide-ranging role that collective dynamics have assumed in our society, such as the invisible movements of economic transactions that take place on the stock exchange (Hong Kong Stock Exchange, 1994), as well as the existence of geometric and serial forms that occur in nature and architecture (Fortuna, 2000; Shanghai, 2000).

In the same way, despite his acute sense of detail, he succeeds in avoiding any anecdotal intent. The flattening of surfaces in his photos instils in the viewer a sense of exclusion and the focus on details likewise creates estrangement. Gursky thus establishes a distance, making any participation impossible. The exhibition will feature the photos Untitled X, 1999; Tote Hosen, 2000; Shanghai, 2000; Fortuna, 2000.

Andreas Gursky has exhibited at the PS1, NYC, 1989, at the Kunstlerhaus, Stuttgart, 1991, at the Kunsthalle, Zurich, 1993 and at the Tate Gallery, Liverpool, 1995; in 1998, his work was shown, among other places, at the Museum of Art, Columbus, the Kunstmuseum, Wolfsburg, at the Fotomuseum, Winterthur and at the Kunsthalle, Dusseldorf, whilst amongst his exhibitions of 1999 mention should be made of those at the Serpentine Gallery, London and the Museo d'Arte Contemporanea at Castello di Rivoli.

The MoMa in New York is currently showing a large-scale retrospective of his work which will move to the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid.

With this exhibition, Lia Rumma consolidates her relationship with the artist, several of whose works have already been shown at the Naples gallery.

The artist will be present during the inauguration.