

DRÉ WAPENAAR

SOLO for YOU Piano Pavilion

Opening: Wednesday 16 November 2011 7.00 pm -10.00

Galleria Lia Rumma, Via Stilicone 19, Milan

gallery opening times: from Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 1.30pm and from 2.30pm to 7pm

On 16 November at 7.00 pm, the Lia Rumma Gallery in Milan will present a concert/performance featuring the Dutch artist Dré Wapenaar and Lia Rumma herself. In his new pavilion devoted to the musical instrument, and named *SOLO for YOU Piano Pavilion*, Wapenaar will play *CANTO OSTINATO* by Simeon ten Holt and *SONG OF RELEASE* by Joep Franssens. The only person to appreciate the all-absorbing acoustic experience will be Lia Rumma who will listen to the performance of the artist/pianist seated on a sofa within the pavilion. The video cameras will capture the fabric of expressions and words that will be established between performer and listener in the tent, as well as the details of the pianist's hands as they move on the keyboard, projecting the magnified images to the outside world, in this case the public on the ground floor of the gallery.

This is the third pavilion that the artist has devoted to the piano and the performance and enjoyment of live music. *SOLO for YOU Piano Pavilion* is specially devoted, like *Four Grand Piano Pavilion* – a show for 200 spectators held in 2004 – to the performance of music by Simeon Ten Holt, who composed a series of pieces for 4 pianos which can also be played on just one instrument. Wapenaar's two pavilions are, in a sense, a sculptural translation of the music of the Dutch composer. "I would describe his music as endowed with harmonic and lyrical elements with a minimalist influence. In musical terms, this can be defined as a 'space'; time is contracted and expanded, slowed down and made to go faster", stated the sculptor/musician in a speech given at the *Design Conference* in Aspen, Colorado in 2001.

The form and geometry of the shell in *SOLO for YOU Piano Pavilion* are designed to accompany the modulation of the grand piano and therefore to concentrate and amplify the sound, making it reverberate around a single listener. It exalts the sensorial experience of the single listener who has music performed on request and exclusively for him/herself.

By employing the materials, underlying logic and production procedures of architecture and design, Wapenaar gives sculptural form to the Bauhaus social ideal of "total theatre" which was only put into practice, in an exemplary manner, in the Berlin Philharmonic Hall built by Hans Scharoun in the sixties. Indeed, the artist defines his "pavilions" as "total sculptures" where the public in the centre are not spectators but part of the performance. Sculpture, architecture – even the natural light falls from above in this new pavilion – design and art all intertwine and merge in this new work by the Rotterdam-based artist.

"At home there was a piano...I have played the piano all my life, often for up to two hours a day". The Lia Rumma Gallery will collaborate with the "Milano Civica Scuola di Musica" in Villa Simonetta in via Stilicone, Milan to hold a concert of chamber music in the pavilion in December.

Dré Wapenaar has taken part in various group shows such as the following: *Parasite Paradise*, Utrecht (2003); *Puddles*, Gallery Surge, Tokyo (2003); *New Hotels for Global Nomads*, Cooper-Hewitt (2005); *Safe*, MoMA; *Less*, PAC Milan and Metropolitanscape, Palazzo Cavour, Turin (2006); Estuaire Biennial, Nantes, (2007); *Design Camp*, Milan Triennale (2009); *Ephemeral Habitat*, Ministry for Housing, Madrid 2011, and solo shows at Museum Boijmans van Beuningen (2001) and MassMoCA (2004). Two retrospectives were devoted to his work at the Chabot Museum (2006) and the Kunsthal in Rotterdam. In 2007 MassMoca commissioned the artist to create a permanent pavilion, while in 2011 the artist designed and built a bridge in his workshop, the *Bike Bridge Pavilion* at Wijhe (NL), the result of winning a competition. His pavilions for music are regularly used for music festivals such as the Boulevard Den Bosch where the artist was invited as a musician.