

PRESS RELEASE

Saturday, January 20, at 7 p.m., the exhibition "Landscape" opens at the Lia Rumma Gallery, Via Vannella Gaetani 12, Naples. It is dedicated to five young artists who use photography as a rigorous medium of expression and research: the Americans Clegg&Guttman, the English John Davis, the French Jean-Louis Garnell, the Germans Andreas Gursky and Thomas Struth.

Having absorbed and treasured from the Minimal and conceptual experiences of the last twenty years, each of them starts from a precise idea that outlines and defines their artistic research. Landscape, a traditional theme of seventeenth to nineteenth century painting, but outraged by the avant-garde of the twentieth century, thus returns, through photography, to play a new and important role.

For Thomas Struth the urban landscape, as the scenery of everyday life, represents the subconscious of the people and reflects their culture, character and habits, splendours and miseries.

Andreas Gursky's images are views of open spaces, in which human figures are placed, often tiny. They are leisure situations, in which men gather, chat, play or wait, creating certain involuntary constellations. Discovering them, Gursky creates images that are completely new, familiar and unusual at the same time.

In John Davis' vast landscapes, often taken from above, the gaze sweeps over hills and plains, rivers and roads, towns and industrial areas. The geological evolution and the settlement of man, apparently random occurrences, reveal their complicity.

Jean Louis Ganell, by photographing suburban situations and scenarios, creates highly stylized, highly synthetic and expressive compositions of shapes and colours.

Clegg&Guttman's often "romantic" or "dramatic" landscapes are marked and interrupted by traces of industrialized civilizations, high voltage cables and metal tanks, which reveal the concatenation of the modern world, the flow of power and informations that flows continuously from one side of the globe to the other.

