



INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JANUARY 17, 2007



Luca Buvoli
Composite of two video stills from "A Very Beautiful Day After Tomorrow (Un Bellissimo Dopodomani)," 2006
DVD, color, sound
Courtesy of the artist.

NEWS RELEASE:

LUCA BUVOLI, A VERY BEAUTIFUL DAY AFTER TOMORROW (UN BELLISSIMO DOPODOMANI)

JANUARY 20–MARCH 25, 2007

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH WITH LUCA BUVOLI AND INGRID SCHAFFNER, SENIOR CURATOR
FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 5–6PM, ICA MEMBERS ONLY

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 6–8PM

PHILADELPHIA, PA

A new Ramp Project by Luca Buvoli (b. 1963, Brescia, Italy, lives in New York and Houston, Texas) goes on view this fall at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) at the University of Pennsylvania. Buvoli is the 11th artist to be commissioned in ICA's Ramp Project Series. His installation can be seen January 20–March 25, 2007.

Using video, sculpture, and drawing, Luca Buvoli transforms ICA's ramp into a 3-D marquis for "A Very Beautiful Day after Tomorrow (Un Bellissimo Dopodomani)." This title names both the project and the artist's new video that makes its premiere as part of the multi-media installation. The words are those of Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, who founded Futurism, the avant-garde movement that brought Italy up to speed with Modernism and into controversial relationship with Fascism during the early 20th century. The title looms large in letters cast from translucent resin and suspended within the lofty ramp space, where a human figure in flight zooms overhead. The words are also spoken by Marinetti's daughter Vittoria, who Buvoli interviewed as part of the video which presents central themes of Buvoli's recent work: velocity and flight.

The appeal of flight is as spectacular as the danger. Exploring aesthetic as well as political aspects of flight, Buvoli's featured video is part of a three-channel work. One monitor is dedicated to the mostly animated video *A Very Beautiful Day after Tomorrow (Un Bellissimo Dopodomani), Part I*; two monitors present *How can this Thing be Explained? (Come Si Può Spiegare Questo Cosa?), Chapters I and II*, which features interviews in Italian and English. Throughout the installation, documentary footage and passages of pure animation merge personal memory, historic accounts, and pictorial abstractions. The daughters of Marinetti, as well as scholars address the problematic aspects that Futurism evokes in its celebration of violence. Music also plays a key role. Conceptually speaking, "A Very Beautiful Day after Tomorrow (Un Bellissimo Dopodomani)" is the latest installment in the overall project *Flying-Practical Training* that Buvoli initiated in 1997.

Every season ICA commissions an artist to create a new site-specific temporary installation for the ramp that links the first and second floor galleries. A transitional space, the ramp is 52-foot long and is visible from the street through architecturally-scaled picture windows on the building's façade. Especially when it is illuminated at night, each of the commissioned works

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*Images available upon request

GENERAL INFORMATION

ICA is located at:

118 South 36th Street at the University of Pennsylvania.

ICA is open to the public, except during installation, from 12:00pm to 8:00pm on Wednesday through Friday and from 11:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is \$6 for adults; \$3 for students over 12, artists, and senior citizens; and free to ICA members, children 12 and under, PENN card holders, and on Sundays from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

For more information, call 215-898-7108/5911, or visit www.icaphila.org.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Founded in 1963, the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is a leader in the presentation and documentation of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, commissions, educational programs, and publications, ICA invites the public to share in the experience, interpretation and understanding of the work of established and emerging artists.

is a window onto ICA's innovative program of contemporary art. Since the series began in 2000, the ramp has been a site for a diverse range of creative approaches, including wall paintings by Ingrid Calame, Arturo Herrera, and Amy Sillman; environmental installations by Virgil Marti and Judy Pfaff; a light and sound piece by Nadine Robinson; an on-going conceptual project by Alexandra Mir; street photography by Zoe Strauss; and most recently a mental garden by Irene Fortuyn inspired by the locust tree just outside the ramp windows.

Buvoli is part of a generation of artists including Matthew Ritchie, Matthew Barney, Paul Chan, Joshua Mosley, who actively draw on religion, history, and popular culture and personal memory to construct postmodern mythologies. As critic Raphael Rubinstein notes, "At the center of all of Buvoli's art, perhaps, is a quest for the child's perspective on adult folly." [Art in America, November 2004.]

Luca Buvoli's work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at the Philadelphia Museum of Art (Video Gallery), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Cleveland Center for Contemporary Art, Ohio, The Austin Museum of Art, Texas, the Queens Museum of Art, New York, the Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, Oregon, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas and the Weatherspoon Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Greensboro. His films have been screened at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York, the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston and London, and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. He has had solo gallery shows at John Weber Gallery, New York, ACME, Los Angeles and Galleria Autoricambi, Rome, Italy, among others. Recently he completed a public commission for PS 253 Elementary School in Queens, New York as part of the Percent for the Arts Program.

This exhibition will be accompanied by a brochure publication with an essay by Christine Poggi, Associate Professor, Department of the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania with an introduction by Ingrid Schaffner, Senior Curator.

ICA acknowledges primary sponsorship of the William Penn Foundation for this project. Additional funding has been provided by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Dietrich Foundation, Inc., the Overseers Board for the Institute of Contemporary Art, friends and members of ICA, and the University of Pennsylvania. ICA is also grateful for in-kind support from Loews Philadelphia Hotel. (Information complete as of 11/27/06.)

All programs subject to change. Please visit the ICA website, www.icaphila.org, for more information on programs in conjunction with "Luca Buvoli."