

**TUCCI RUSSO**  
**STUDIO PER L'ARTE CONTEMPORANEA**

VIA STAMPERIA 9  
I - 10066 TORRE PELLICE  
TEL. +39 0121.953.357 - FAX +39 0121.953.459  
gallery@tuccirusso.com www.tuccirusso.com

**JAN VERCRUYSSSE**

**"Elise, ti voglio parlare"**

Opening 10<sup>th</sup> May 2003 from 6 to 8.30 pm – until September 28th

Opening hours: Thursday to Sunday from 10.30 am to 12.30 and from 4 to 7 pm.

Monday to Wednesday: by appointment.

Jan Vercruyssen (born in 1948) lives and works in western Europe.

One of his works, an open-air sculpture by the name of "Light Fountains" was recently on show in Piazza Bodoni, Turin, during the "Luci d'Artista" exhibition.

This is the artist's third exhibition at the Galleria Tucci Russo (1996, 1999, 2003).

Two of the works in the present exhibition are based on projects dating back to the mid-Eighties.

They are: "Atopies XVIII, 1986 -2003" and "Petite Suite, 1986 - 2003"

The starting-point of the "Atopies" series is a reflection on the place of Art.

The artist has visualized this in a "negative" way [non-place], since, from a methodological point of view, a negative formulation can more effectively precise something "positively"; and, on the other hand, from an ontological viewpoint, one cannot visualize the place of Art "positively".

And it is exactly in this tension / in this contradiction that the place of Art / Art can be situated.

On the other hand, the artist saw the "Atopies" series as a concrete interrogation of the place of Art in our society / in our contemporary culture. A society / a culture that wants Art to be "positive", taking part in a culture of consumption without reflexion. The structure of the "Atopies" sculpture series is always constructed in the same way: there's a fireplace [as the archetype of an object which indicates "place"], and next to this fireplace are positioned some elements coming from an "imaginary place", like panels from an interior, frames, mirrors and so on.

These together, as a negative presence, must serve as an interrogation of the place of Art / of the place for Art (as an absent positive presence).

In "Petite Suite, 1986- 2003", dating back from the same period, we once again find the concept of the place of Art, of absence and of expectation. The constellation of objects - frames whose perimeters have not been closed, an empty chair - becomes *the place*, closed in itself but open to our memory or imagination, like the silent notes of the other work "Les Paroles [Letto] XVI, (M)", 2003, in which the sculpture, a sort of severe music-stand, has lying in it a page with a music score and, for the first time, also a sheet of paper with visual images.

In the other works on show, from the series "Camera Oscura", "In My Mind" and "A Voyage", Jan Vercruyssen has returned to the use of photography, as he already did in the "Self-portraits" of the early Eighties: the frame delimits the space and the built-up image becomes play, narration, memory, solitude, seduction.

During the exhibition a limited edition on 43 copies of the artist's portfolio will be presented, containing 13 "Labyrinth and Pleasure Gardens, 1994-2001", published by Brooke Alexander, New York, Xavier Hufkens, Brussels, and Tucci Russo, Torre Pellice, and produced by Yves Gevaert, Brussels.