

Vecchiato New Art Galleries

Padova, Italy

L'arte di David Hamilton The art of David Hamilton

curated by Dominique Stella

1 June 2007 - 28 July 2007

On 31 May the new gallery of Vecchiato was launched in Padua, which is completely dedicated to photography: the **Vecchiato Contemporary Photos**. After the success of the historical Vecchiato Gallery and the recent Vecchiato New Art Galleries, which hosted important exhibitions like "Made in China", "Andy Warhol" and "Jacques Villeglé", the **third gallery** now concentrates on **photography**. The small space behind the Verdi Theatre in the centre of Padua is entirely dedicated to this form of expression and opened with the solo exhibition of the great David Hamilton, curated by **Dominique Stella**.

The exhibition offers a wide selection from the works by the famous British photographer and it is made up of more than a hundred of his most important snapshots mostly from the 70's and 80's, up to one from 2006: from female nudes to still lifes, from the unforgettable photographs of Venice to the homage to great painters, his works always convey a great deal of nostalgia. Beyond his "blooming girls", Hamilton is an enthusiastic admirer of painters such as Ingres, Delacroix, Courbet and Degas. Catching the images of objects and people, he gives them a trait that is almost pictorial and in this way his pictures become a homage to the great artists that preceded him. About the snapshots on show Dominique Stella says: "David Hamilton never gave up his ideal as a photographer of representing life outside time, as he favours capturing the absolute moment: the image must not refer to a time, nor contain any element ascribable to a precise moment. No car, no technological device, no representation of daily life, because Hamilton's photography is a-temporal".

His works refer to the origin of woman, of the child-woman inside an Eden animated by wind and flowers with the spirit of primeval nature. You encounter a style made of flowers, laces and nudes of young women in a bucolic, nostalgic and at the same time eternal world. Dim light dematerializes the scene and transforms it into a dream. So this is one of the fundamental elements of Hamilton's photographs, who prefers to work at dawn or at twilight with soft and faded tones, in the natural landscapes of his house in Saint-Tropez or on a beach in the Maldives.

The artistic life of David Hamilton is marked by a success consistently on the rise and by a wide array of works: 29 collections of published photographs and 10.000 still to be published.

On show is a **video** that allows the audience to admire many other of his works which complete the wide ranging exhibition.

A catalogue accompanies the exhibition, "L'arte di David Hamilton/The art of David Hamilton" published by Vecchiato New Art Galleries, with 130 photographs and a critical essay by Dominique Stella.

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