

GALLERIA MARABINI

Michael Joo

Exhibition

30th January 2nd April 2010

Opening

Saturday 30th January 6,30 PM



Michael Joo,
Improved Rack (Elk #16), 2009,
Antlers, stainless steel
55 x 99 x 25 in / 139,7 x 251,46 x 63,5 cm

PRESS RELEASE

Galleria Marabini is pleased to present the first Italian retrospective of Micheal Joo from January 30 through April 2, 2010.

Michael Joo (b. 1966, USA) is an internationally well-known artist who has had many solo and group exhibitions at major art events and venues, including the Korean Pavilion at the 49th Venice Biennale (2001); Serpentine Gallery, London; White Cube Gallery, London; Whitney Biennale (2000); and the 6th Gwangju Biennale (2006). His work *Bohdi Obfuscatus (Space Baby)* shown at the Gwangju Biennale was praised highly in Korea as a "distinct reconciliation of the East and the West" and received the joint grand prize awarded by the Biennale.

Born to Korean parents in the U.S., Joo grew up in the American Midwest and studied biology in college. He then received an MFA from Yale School of Art. His works are anchored in explorations about his identity, an exploration that is informed by various backgrounds and the cultural diversity he experienced in his formative years.

Joo has keen eyes for deciphering the exact cross-points of complex notions of duality such as nature and science, the East and West, religion and morality, and the inside and outside, and he is well-known for making the viewer rethink about the conventional ideas about 'identity'. Michael Joo also raises questions about the fast-spreading concept of the 'hybrid' through works that deal with the issues of identity, the deconstruction of the object, and heterogeneous union among deconstructed objects

The show will feature fifteen works of diverse medium, including canvas-mounted hand-built plastic relief, sculpture and print. The works will include *Improved Rack*, a deer antler that has been sectioned off and recomposed that suggests a potential growth; *Consumptive (selbst-bildnis for DH)* a sculptural work in which an Italian sausage is made of plastic; *Stripped Surface (Brachii)* a canvas work that reminds one of zebra skin and *Stripped Reflection (Lucifer's Legacy)* a "glass canvas" playing with the double; the work of art and its shadows reflected on the wall. In transforming familiar objects Joo's works reinterpret them, and viewers will experience the artist's unique reconciliation of the aesthetic and philosophical reflections on the unfamiliar.

Nowadays Michael Joo's works can be found in many collections, including: Murderme Collection, London; Guggenheim Museum, New York; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Samsung Museum, Seoul, Korea; Fondation National d'Art Contemporain, Paris..

The opening hours of the Gallery are:

Bologna: from Monday to Friday 10:30 AM to 1 PM and 3 PM to 7:30 PM and by appointment

Milan: by appointment only.

For further enquires please contact the Gallery on +39 051 6447482, +39 0262086802