

Press release



# CONCILIO

Stefano Cagol

Collateral Event of the 54th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia

Chiesa di San Gallo (San Gallo Church)

San Marco 1103, Campo San Gallo, Venice

May 31 – November 27, 2011

Opening: May 31, 6 pm

**Curated by:** Gregor Jansen

**Scientific Direction:** Gabriella Belli, Andrea Viliani

**Mart – Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Trento and Rovereto and Fondazione Galleria Civica-Center of Research on Contemporaneity of Trento** as promoting institutions are proud to announce Stefano Cagol's participation at 54th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia.

The artist will present the new solo show *CONCILIO* at San Gallo Church, a project promoted together by the two institutions of Trentino South Tyrol.

*“Between the pyramids as symbol for eternity and power and borders as a symbol for inclusion/exclusion and power, the interior of the Church of San Gallo in Venice becomes a perfect context for religious background and intellectual power. In the world—between the terrestrial, the political and the religious—spiritual power is not enough.”* **Gregor Jansen**

**THE SHOW:** In Stefano Cagol's solo show curated by Gregor Jansen, **new oxymorons** are triggered – **through video and installation** – by signaling and dialoging actions that hit **political borders, natural borders, mental borders**.

Developed through the joining of opposites, the splitting of like entities, through “**parallel convergences**” that generate a liminal landscape and a territory on borders, the solo show *CONCILIO* ideally starts from Stefano Cagol's place of birth, “a territory marking the passage between South and North, Rome and Wittenberg, between Italy and Germany: Trento, Trentino South Tyrol.” The very first reference to his city of origin is to be found in the title which draws back immediately to the *Concilio di Trento*, the Council of Trient. So sense of belonging, identity and history correspond to a site and to an historical landmark, to what is nowadays defined as a very “**unpredictable event**” – i.e. an event with a controversial influence reaching our daily complexities from a very distant past – that brings also the opposite idea of tension towards the unknown and the unforeseen.

Within the frame of San Gallo Church of the 15th century, a symbolic presence, a complex pyramidal structure connects different faces to a unique apex. In this way, it evokes the idea of synergy, of coincidence, of “parallel convergences, the not univocal idea of “council,” and refers also to the public art intervention just realised by Cagol for the new A22 gate of Trento: a permanent monumental installation of 16 tons of steel.

In the video installation, other oppositions are protagonists – atmospheres of ice and snow, wind and water, of ethereal flames and light. The artist has gone **beyond the Arctic Polar Circle**, to a place characterized by a series of convergences of dissonances: it is the Barents region, the meeting point of the Norwegian, Finnish, and Russian borders. Chosen in the moment in which the short sun becomes pallid like the snow of the mountains that it licks. There, the artist has given life to a series of “**actions on the border:**” signals that underline a border, different borders, but at the same time they shake them, they cross them. They are actions of signaling and communicating, of control and passage.

**THE MONOGRAPH:** On the occasion of *CONCILIO* solo show at Venice Biennale, a **mid-career monograph dedicated to Stefano Cagol** is launched: it is titled ***PUBLIC OPINION***.

It contains new essays by **Gregor Jansen** (Director of Kunsthalle Düsseldorf and former Head of Department at ZKM Karlsruhe), **Iara Boubnova** (curator of ones of the most important biennales, i.e. Moscow, San Paolo, Istanbul biennales and Manifesta in Frankfurt am Main), **Michele Robecchi** (editor of Phaidon Press London and former chief editor of “Flash Art International”), **Andrea Viliani** (Director of Fondazione Galleria Civica di Trento). Contributions are by **Andreas F. Beitin, Francesco Bernardelli, Stefan Bidner, Cis Bierinckx, Shane Brennan, Achille Bonito Oliva, Alfredo Cramerotti, Blanca de la Torre, Giacinto di Pietrantonio, Bruce Elder, David Elliott, Micaela Giovannotti, Luba Kuzovnikova, Veit Loers, Esther Lu, Trevor Smith, Pier Luigi Tazzi, Nicola Trezzi, Kamila Wielebska, June Yap, Raul Zamudio**.

*PUBLIC OPINION* starts from its participation in 54. International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale whit solo show *CONCILIO* at San Gallo Church, and focuses on recent public art projects: the permanent monumental installation of sixteen tons of steel at the new A22 gate of Trento, the sixteen flags raised in Kirkenes beyond the Arctic Circle, the neon sign *FLU POWER FLU* on the facade of Beursschouwburg in Brussels, the traveling project *BIRD FLU VOGELGRIPPE* on avian influenza suspended in between physical flu and mental influence. Then the book goes back to the early years of his career and to those of his research in video art in Toronto.

The monograph – **curated by Andrea Viliani** – has been **realized by Fondazione Galleria Civica-Center of Research on Contemporaneity of Trento** in the context of the project *Opera Civica (TN)*, for the years 2010-11, which has been made thanks to the support of the Provincia autonoma di Trento.

**The book (232 pages, 150 color pages, paperback, 30 x 23 cm, ISBN 978-88-8158-820-6) is bilingual (Italian/English), is published by CHARTA, Milan, while its graphic design is by Thomas Desmet, Ghent.**

## CONCILIO

**Stefano Cagol**

Chiesa di San Gallo

San Marco 1103, Campo San Gallo, Venice

**May 31 – November 27, 2011**

**Opening hours: 10 am – 6 pm. Monday closed. Free entrance**

**Curated by:** Gregor Jansen

**Scientific Direction:** Gabriella Belli, Andrea Viliani

**Opening; May 31, 6 – 8:30 pm**

**Preview: May 31, 10 am – 6 pm**

**Stefano Cagol** was born in Trento, Italy and lives and works in Trento and in Brussels, Belgium. He just ended an artist in residence at International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP) in New York and an artist in residence by BAR International of Pikene på Broen in Kirkenes, beyond Arctic Circle in Norway.

**Gregor Jansen** is director of Kunsthalle Düsseldorf and former head of department at ZKM | Museum of Contemporary Art Karlsruhe.

### **Promoting institutions:**

Mart – Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art of Trento and Rovereto

Fondazione Galleria Civica-Center of Research on Contemporaneity of Trento

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