

# AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

## LO SGUARDO DI GIANO

curated by Francesco Stocchi

Tuesday January 27<sup>th</sup>, 6pm

*Les miroirs feraient bien de réfléchir un peu avant de renvoyer les images* J. Cocteau

Inspired by the figure of Janus, symbol of the American Academy in Rome since its founding in 1893 and representing the synthesis between past and future, *Lo Sguardo di Giano* reflects upon the different elements involved in creating doubleness. Janus, represented with *baculum* and *clavis* (scepter and keys) in his hands, is the bearer of the perfect time when the Gods and men co-existed in peace. He was defined by Proco: *Time that does not age and whose knowledge does not perish.*

The works by the thirteen artists in the exhibition form a corollary of the various aspects offered by the figure of Janus, helping us question the meaning and value around the construction of the double. If a form (or action) is repeated, is the idea reinforced or weakened? What is the creative process behind the making of a copy? Could reflection be seen as a *live copy*? Is the sum of two halves equal in value to the unity that has generated them? Are two synchronized actions autonomous or do they repeat each other reciprocally? Does the value of a double enhance or hinder the value of difference?

The theme of doubleness touches on various disciplines, such as philosophy, physics, religion, psychology, and biology, and has been expressed ever since through literature, dance, visual art, music, and more recently, graphic-design and cinema. There are many literary examples, among which are Ovid's *Metamorphosis*, Wilde's *The Portrait of Dorian Grey*, Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and Calvino's *Il Visconte Dimezzato*. The cinema also offers many examples, such *Psycho*, *Sliding Doors*, *Face/Off*, *Fight Club*, etc.

*Lo sguardo di Giano* helps us ponder the practice of such celebrated artists as Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, Joseph Beuys, Giulio Paolini, Roni Horn or Douglas Gordon who have used doubleness as a recurrent process, this exhibition also indicates how such a subject can originate with different and fragmentary needs that find their totality and conclusion in a single work.

**ARTISTS**

**Armando Andrade Tudela**  
**Daniel Baker**  
**Becky Beasley**  
**Damiano Bertoli**  
**Giuseppe Capitano**  
**Christian Capurro**  
**Monica Carocci**  
**Marco Fusinato**  
**Chris Moukarbel**  
**Sam Samore**  
**Gedi Sibony**  
**Luca Trevisani**  
**Thomas Weinberger**

February 12<sup>th</sup> there will be a second opening presenting the interventions from the Academy's residents who responded to the curator's open call:

**Carola Bonfili**  
**Jennifer Coates**  
**David Humphrey**  
**Marie Lorenz**  
**Matthew Monteith**  
**Jeff Williams**

*January 27<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009*  
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