

FEDERICO BIANCHI CONTEMPORARY ART

Bert Theis

Inventario #A

opening 5th May 2011 6.30 p.m.

5th May - 16th July 2011

Like any inventory, the one Bert Theis is showing at Federico Bianchi Contemporary Art is an incomplete listing of objects or data, *in fieri*. An inventory records and takes stock, but by definition it does not describe. It is a classification that makes no claims to thoroughness. Nor does it aim to provide a synthetic representation of the complex, internationally acclaimed work of Bert Theis.

A series of photographs, two models, a video, an installation, a work on wood, an engraving on a slab of quartzite are displayed in a heterogeneous way in this show. Works of varying nature, belonging to different phases and periods in Theis's career: traces and ideas of a project approach shifted in time and scattered in space, figures of a field of intent that focuses on the urban and public sphere. The model for an *Asian Pentagon* made as a working tool for the Taipei Biennial of 2008 appears together with the work *Fischbehn* of 2001, a bench-coffin produced for the exhibition "Salto Mortale" at Kassel. Or *BT2551914* (2011), a graphic project for a park in Paris engraved on a stone surface, positioned together with *Il Consiglio*, a true installation of found chairs and stools put together for the Office for Urban Transformation (OUT).

These are but a few examples. But beyond the apparent variety, all these works belong to a single outlook of promise and prefiguration.

Each of these moments of definition of the work has an epistemological character: it is a sort of enigma that captures the viewer in the hermeneutic circuit of free interpretation of function and meaning, attributed as the viewer sees fit. Something incomplete or indeterminate that eludes control is the primary element behind the idea of the artist's platforms. So the promise is the same one to which Bert Theis has accustomed us for years. Namely? Precisely that of Debord, of the "realization" of art. And of philosophy.

Marco Scotini