

PIERO GOLIA

February 20 – March 24, 2007

Bortolami is pleased to present a new installation by Piero Golia. What at first appears to be a chaotic series of events is actually a perfectly orchestrated time machine. By exploring various methods of counting time, both visually and audibly, the artist forces us into an environment where we are continuously aware of the marking off of seconds, minutes and hours. Unconcerned with traditional formal issues of creating art, Golia is interested in altering reality and making the viewer his witness.

Golia's work is the reaction of an existential decision reached from the point of no return. He expresses the heroic poetry of the extreme gesture - the challenge of completing a nearly impossible feat or legendary action, something between the romantic hero of tragedies and an alchemist. The artist once moved the façade of a building from Amsterdam to hang it on a gallery wall in Paris, he climbed a palm tree and refused to come down until someone bought his work eight hours later and he has convinced a woman to tattoo his image on her back. Last year Golia vanished from New York for one month leaving no trace of his whereabouts or proof of his existence, only to reappear in Copenhagen one month later. This exhibition will create a sensory experience for the viewer where anxiety, anticipation and expectation all play a role.

Piero Golia was born in Naples, Italy in 1974. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles, California. His work has been shown in major galleries in Europe and United States and featured in numerous exhibitions including *Gold Standards* at P.S.1, New York in 2006 and *Uncertain States of America – American Art in the 3rd Millenium* at the Serpentine Gallery, London and Bard College, New York in 2005. In 2004 his first feature film, *Killer Shrimps*, was screened at the 61st Venice Film Festival. In 2005 he opened the Mountain School of Art together with Eric Wesley.

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