

Tony Matelli

Exhibition title: *Yesterday*

Green gallery is pleased to announce and exhibition of new work by Tony Matelli.

Matelli often depicts characters or things that are barely getting by; things nearly dead, hopelessly lost or otherwise, totally unwanted. Serving as metaphors for our own social malaise and general struggle for survival, Matelli's sculptures mimic inner states of desolation, panic, ambivalence and despair. These states are often associated with trying to locate one's self within the configuration of our social world; a tenuous structure wherein collapse is all but assured.

Matelli has transformed Green Gallery into a den of ennui and neglect; a space less sanctioned for art than vetoed by it. *Fuck it, free yourself!* forcefully underscores this rejection of the status-quo. Seamlessly realized in porcelain and steel, two hundred-dollar bills burn casually on a table, perpetually consumed by the dancing fire. It is a dream magically rendered; an eternal flame.

Occupying the marginal areas such as wall corners, fissures in the floor, and gaps around the edges are numerous weeds (*Abandon*, 2009), hyper-realistically rendered in painted bronze. Often seen as symbols of neglect and surrender, the weeds here are a celebration of the mundane and vulgar over the rare and precious. Permanently rebellious, the plants are nagging reminders of our fallibility and vanity, performing as unlikely heroic symbols.

In a suite of anti-monuments titled *Yesterday*, Matelli renders elaborate structures from playing cards, beer cans, cold pizza and cigarette butts. These testaments to wasted time appear perpetually verged on total collapse, their attraction a result of their seemingly built-in failure. Composed of polychrome bronze, *Yesterday* is a kind of cairn to the future, a testament to the pursuance of obsolescence and catastrophe.